

Abu Jihad arrives in Amman

AMMAN (A.P.) — Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad), Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's top military aide, arrived in Amman Saturday amid reports of an imminent reactivation of the dialogue between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Abu Jihad told the Associated Press in a telephone contact that he came to Amman to discuss "the situation surrounding the struggle of the people of the Israeli-occupied West Bank." Abu Jihad had set up his office in Amman in September 1982 in the wake of the Israeli invasion of Beirut and the withdrawal of the PLO from Lebanon, but he left Amman after the breakdown of the dialogue between the PLO and Jordan in April 1983. Press reports here said Mr. Arafat will visit Amman after the Islamic summit conference in Rabat, Morocco, next week.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز صحيفة سياسية مستقلة المنشورة من المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

'Syria blocking Lebanon plan'

WASHINGTON (A.P.) — The administration of President Ronald Reagan believes Syria is blocking a security plan in Lebanon, apparently confident that American Marines and the multinational peacekeeping force will be withdrawn regardless of whether there is a plan, a senior official says. But the official insisted a U.S. withdrawal would not be considered without a security plan, although he said the administration might take "a fresh look" at the Marines' status if there is a plan and if a stronger Lebanese government emerges from follow-up negotiations. The withdrawal of 1,600 Marines and other members of the Multi-National Force (MNF) is no longer dependent on an arrangement for the withdrawal of Syrian and Israeli forces, which occupy about 60 per cent of Lebanon. But the official said that is still a U.S. objective.

Volume 9 Number 2464

AMMAN, SUNDAY JANUARY 15, 1984, RABIA ALTHANI 11, 1404

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Saudi leader meets Lebanese Sunni chief

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz received Lebanese Sunni Muslim Mufti (spiritual leader) Hassan Khaled in Riyadh Saturday, the Saudi Press Agency reported. The meeting was also attended by Saudi Second Deputy Prime Minister and Defence and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz and Information Minister Ali Al Shaer, a former Saudi ambassador to Lebanon. The agency gave no details of the meeting.

U.N. chief, Cheysson hold discussions

PARIS (R) — United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar discussed the Middle East and the Islamic conference in Morocco when he met French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson Saturday, a French spokesman said. Mr. Perez de Cuellar is due to leave Paris for the Islamic conference and an eight-nation tour of Africa after a two-day private visit to Paris.

Rumsfeld in Israel 'to take rest'

TEL AVIV (R) — U.S. special Middle East envoy Donald Rumsfeld arrived unexpectedly in Tel Aviv Friday after meeting Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, a U.S. official said Saturday. Mr. Rumsfeld had come to Israel to rest and was not scheduled to meet Israeli leaders, he said. The official declined to give any indication of Mr. Rumsfeld's next move.

Brunei joins OIC

RABAT (R) — Brunei became the 45th member of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Saturday when Islamic foreign ministers approved the Sultan's candidature, conference sources said. The Sultan of Brunei was expected in Casablanca later Saturday to take part in the organisation's fourth summit opening on Monday in Casablanca.

U.S. team in Pakistan to discuss narcotics

ISLAMABAD (A.P.) — A U.S. congressional delegation led by Senators Charles Rangel and Benjamin Gilman arrived here Saturday for a four-day stay to discuss narcotics problems with Pakistani officials. Pakistan is a major source of heroin to the United States and other Western nations, over which the U.S. government repeatedly has expressed concern.

Soviet minister gets promotion

MOSCOW (A.P.) — Oil and Gas Construction Minister Boris Y. Shcherbina, who was decorated and highly praised for the building of the Siberian gas pipeline, has been named a deputy premier of the Soviet Union, according to a TASS announcement Saturday. Mr. Shcherbina was relieved of his ministry job, TASS said, upon his appointment as one of about a dozen deputy chairmen of the council of ministers of the Præsidium of the Supreme Soviet, the nation's nominal parliament.

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Crown Prince: Israel should make its intentions clear Jordanian-Palestinian efforts are continuing, Hassan says

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan, the Palestinians in the West Bank and moderates in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are continuing efforts to reach a formula for peace in the Middle East, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Saturday.

In an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation television, the Crown Prince said that Israel has not yet clearly indicated its willingness to talk peace, and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian agreement cannot be reached in full until Israel makes positive indications of its desire for peace.

However, Prince Hassan said, joint Jordanian-Palestinian efforts are under way to reach a formula before the forthcoming Arab summit, scheduled to be held in Riyadh in March.

He said that His Majesty King Hussein and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat have been in contact

ever since the PLO leader withdrew from north Lebanon last month.

But he said a Jordanian-Palestinian formula cannot be achieved in full unless Israel makes positive moves towards peace, and it can start by stopping its settlement policy in the occupied Arab lands.

Prince Hassan said that there must be real and serious efforts this year towards achieving a peaceful settlement, otherwise the Arabs will have to face the consequences of seeing Israel annexing Arab territory.

Israel for its part, he said, should bring forward evidence of its

good intentions and declare clearly that the Arab territories under its rule are subject to negotiation.

He said despite the Israeli extremism, there is a real desire in the Arab World for peace. The Middle East, he added, is in need of peace based on justice and security for all, and the United States should resume its constructive role towards achieving that goal.

The region is now witnessing a move towards polarisation with Israeli and the United States forming one alliance and Syria and the Soviet Union forming another, he said.

What the region wants to see is Israel accepting the formula of peace in exchange for land, but unfortunately it is still intent on deceiving the world by falsely calling for unconditional negotiations — which indicates that it disregards U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, Prince Hassan said.

On the resumption of parliamentary life in Jordan, Prince Hassan said that Jordan should shoulder legal responsibility for the West Bank and it will be impossible for Jordan to exercise this responsibility without the presence of an elected parliament. Jordan's laws issued in 1951, he explained,

were enacted on the basis of unity between the two banks and it is necessary now for Jordan, the PLO and the Palestinians to work out a formula by which the Palestinians will have the right to self-determination on the West Bank.

The resumption of parliamentary life in Jordan, Prince Hassan added, is merely an internal affair and Jordan still regards the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The area cannot move towards real peace without a true and firm American commitment in this respect, he added.

OIC ministers urge end to Gulf war

RABAT (R) — Islamic countries' foreign ministers, winding up a three-day conference here Saturday, have urged Iran and Iraq to end their 40-month-old Gulf war and resolve the conflict peacefully.

Officials of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) said the call was made in a draft resolution adopted by the ministers and would be submitted to an Islamic summit meeting due to open in the Moroccan city of Casablanca on Monday.

The draft appealed to both countries to "end military operations and pull their troops back to international borders," the officials said.

It expressed satisfaction at Iraq's approval of previous OIC resolutions and other peace calls.

When a number of countries proposed a similar motion at an OIC ministerial meeting in Bangladesh last month, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati staged a stormy walkout. Iran has repeatedly accused Iraq of being the "aggressor" in

the war and of bombing border towns and is demanding huge reparations from Baghdad.

The officials said the draft asked Iran, which is boycotting the Rabat and Casablanca gatherings claiming OIC bias in Iraq's favour, to accept OIC resolutions and other initiatives to settle the Gulf conflict through negotiations.

The draft expressed support for a United Nations Security Council resolution which appealed for an end to the war and urged Iran to "respond to the resolution which calls for the freedom of trade and navigation in the Gulf waters," they added.

The foreign ministers, meanwhile, continued efforts to reconcile draft resolutions presented by Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on the Palestinian issue.

PLO-Syrian 'differences'

Habib Chatti, secretary-general of the 43-member OIC, told reporters Friday night there were slight differences between the

PLO and Syrian papers, but added: "There is basically no problem on broad lines."

He said the ministerial meeting would submit three main draft resolutions to the Casablanca heads of state conference on the Middle East, the Gulf war and Afghanistan.

The draft on Afghanistan, tabled by Pakistan and adopted by the ministers, called for an end to Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan and withdrawal of all foreign troops, he added.

Asked if any reservations had been voiced on the Afghanistan document he indicated there had been some from Syria, Libya and South Yemen.

Mr. Chatti said a special sub-committee had been formed to reconcile two proposals regarding the Middle East, tabled by Syria and the PLO.

He said there were "slight differences" between the Syrian and PLO proposals but there was basically no problem on broad outlines of the draft resolution.

Associated Press adds from

Rabat:

Conference officials said a number of Islamic nations led by Sudan are demanding Egypt's return to the group, while a number of militant countries remain firmly opposed to it.

The militants were headed by Libya and Syria. Libyan Foreign Minister Abdelati Obeida told reporters here his government "is not hostile to the Egyptian people" and would welcome Egypt's return to the Islamic family of nations — if Cairo denounced the Camp David agreements with Israel.

The Egyptian government of President Hosni Mubarak was virtually certain to reject such a condition even if the militants persuaded the summit's moderate majority to adopt it. Even some of the moderates seemed to feel that the time was not yet ripe for Egypt's return to the fold, and that it was not up to the Islamic conference to take the first step anyway.

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His Majesty King Hussein Saturday confers with Sir Edwin Bramall, British defence staff chief. The King is expected to leave the hospital today. Sunday (Petra photo)

King receives British defence chief, Egyptian trade minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein received in his hospital suite, in separate meetings Saturday Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall, chief of defence staff of the British armed forces and Egyptian Minister of Trade and Economy Mustapha Al Sa'id.

The visitors inquired after the King's health and wished him a speedy recovery. The King was hospitalised last week suffering from a bleeding stomach ulcer and is reported to be recovering fast. Sir Edwin arrived in Amman earlier Saturday leading an official delegation on an official visit to Jordan at the invitation of Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lieutenant-General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker.

The British defence chief was quoted as saying by the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that he admired Jordan's stability, security and progress. He also voiced hope for bolstering Anglo-Jordanian co-operation in various fields.

"I am very pleased to be here in Jordan as the guest, for the next few days, of the commander-in-chief, Lieutenant-General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker," Field Marshal Bramall said in a statement to

the press. "Jordan and Britain have many military ties which date back over the years to the days of the Arab Revolt and the Sharif Hussein Ibn Ali, great-grandfather of His Majesty King Hussein."

"I look forward to seeing and learning about your country and to finding out how you have created this land of reason, democracy, peace and prosperity at the centre of a very troubled area. I hope, during my talks with the commander-in-chief and his officers to strengthen the close bonds which already exist between the Jordan Armed Forces and the British armed services which I have the honour to head," the statement said. "I would like during the visit to discuss our mutual interests, and those areas where Britain can best provide assistance in training and whatever other forms of military cooperation seem desirable to you. I know also that there are many areas where we can learn from you and benefit from your experience. We therefore have a great deal to talk about," it added.

"I was very sorry to hear of His Majesty's indisposition and I wish

him a speedy recovery," the statement said.

The British delegation's meeting with the King was attended by Lt-Gen. Sharif Zaid and British Ambassador to Jordan Alan Urwick.

The delegation also visited the Queen Alia Heart Institute and the Martyr's Monument.

The Egyptian trade minister, who visited the King in hospital Saturday, arrived in Amman Friday to attend a seminar on inter-Arab monetary co-operation jointly organised by the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) and the Central Bank of Jordan which opened Saturday.

The Egyptian minister's meeting with the King was attended by Nabil Badr, head of the Egyptian interests office in Amman.

Meanwhile, the King continued to receive messages of well wishes from various world leaders including U.S. President Ronald Reagan, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Italian President Sandro Pertini and Pakistani President Mohammad Zia Ul-Haq.

Lebanese violence subsides

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's violence petered out Friday after widespread clashes Friday, and Lebanese leaders prepared for meetings next week with Syrian, Saudi and Islamic officials aimed partly at ending the fighting.

Few incidents and no casualties were reported by late afternoon Friday, following Friday's street battles in west Beirut and shelling of the east of the city. At least two people died and about 20 were wounded in those clashes.

Meanwhile, a top aide to opposition leader Walid Junblatt told reporters in Tripoli that Mr. Junblatt and Shiite leader Nabih Berri had signed a new security plan now in the hands of Syrian, Saudi and Lebanese leaders.

Although the aide, Marwan Hamade, acknowledged that the plan was only one of several that have been discussed, he said: "The ball is now in the court of the authorities. We are still awaiting a reply to the plan and the endorsement of the parties (Saudi Arabia and Syria) which have played a mediation role."

He repeated Mr. Junblatt's emphasis on the importance of having a political settlement in addition to a security plan.

Government sources said objections by Mr. Junblatt have stalled the current security plan which provides for deploying Lebanese army units outside Beirut and a disengagement of combatants in Beirut's southern suburbs and in the coastal Kharrub region 25 kilometres south of the city.

Presidential palace sources said President Amin Gemayel, Prime Minister Shafiq Al Wazzan and Foreign Minister Elie Salem Saturday mapped out strategy for Monday's Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) summit in Morocco and for a separate session between the Syrian, Lebanese and Saudi foreign ministers.

Fateh envoys to meet Habash, Hawatmeh

TUNIS (J.T.) — Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad) and Hayel Abdul Hamid, members of the Central Committee of Fateh, the mainstream commando movement in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Saturday left Tunis for Algiers to meet leaders of two other PLO factions, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

Palestinian sources told the Jordan Times that they would meet PFLP leader George Habash and DFLP chief Nayef Hawatmeh who are currently in Algiers for talks with President Chadli Benjedid over PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's controversial visit to Cairo and meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak last month.

The Fateh leaders are expected

to continue mediation efforts with Mr. Habash and Mr. Hawatmeh, who have called for the ouster of Mr. Arafat over the Cairo visit. In Algiers, Mohsin Ibrahim, a prominent Lebanese communist leader, met Mr. Arafat Friday to continue the mediation efforts, the sources said.

Mr. Ibrahim was one of the prominent Lebanese opposition leaders who objected to the withdrawal of Mr. Arafat and his loyalists from north Lebanon last month in the face of attacks by Syrian and Libyan-backed Palestinian dissidents.

Mr. Arafat met in Algiers Friday with President Benjedid, the sources said. They did not give any details.

Renegade Major Haddad dies

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's closest ally in Lebanon, renegade Lebanese army major and rightist militia leader Saad Haddad died Saturday, Israeli Radio reported.

Maj. Haddad's family had said he was suffering from cancer. Maj. Haddad, commander of the pro-Israeli militia in South Lebanon, had received hospital treatment in Haifa and was flown to his home in Marjayoun earlier this month.

He was tended there by local doctors and nurses and Israeli army doctors.



Saad Haddad was in South Lebanon and formed his own enclave which he named "Free Lebanon."

Seminar calls for strong Arab economic integration

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A three-day seminar on the scope of international monetary developments and inter-Arab monetary co-operation in the 1980s was inaugurated by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday. The seminar is organised by the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) in co-operation with the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) and the Central Bank of Jordan.

Speaking at the seminar, Prince Hassan and AMF President Sa'id Ghobash called for increased inter-Arab economic ties to face world economy crises. Prince Hassan urged the AMF and other major Arab financial institutions to increase their capital to help boost economic and investment opportunities in the Arab World. He also called for the encouragement of medium and long-term loans to be granted for industrial projects.

"This seminar is a rare opportunity which combines objective thinking with planned decisions," Prince Hassan said. "The bridging between the economic and financial

decision-making and Arab intellectuals, researchers and businessmen runs in line with the aims of the ATF which represents a symbol of inter-Arab co-operation that we hope to increase," he added.

Prince Hassan recalled the strategy of joint Arab economic action laid down by the 1980 Arab summit held in Amman, and stressed its importance as a basis for an Arab joint economic action plan. He also said that Arab countries have traded and invested money abroad more than among themselves.

Dr. Mohammad Sa'id Nabulsi, governor of the Central Bank of Jordan, in an address to the seminar, said that the past three years of the present decade have witnessed successive developments in the frame of Arab monetary integration and achievements. These efforts, he said, came as an expansion and reinforcement of attempts exerted in the last decades which were crowned by the establishing of the AMF in 1976 with the aim of laying down monetary constituents of Arab economic

(Continued on page 3)

12 killed as storms ravage North Europe

LONDON (R) — At least 12 people have been killed in storms which continued to ravage Northern Europe Saturday, causing havoc to shipping, falling trees and closing roads.

Nine of the deaths were in Britain, where six people were killed by falling trees and one 20-year-old woman cyclist was dashed against the side of a moving lorry.

Off northeast England, fears were growing for five seamen as an air and sea search continued for a Belgian trawler missing since Friday.

Off the country's southwest coast all six men aboard a small Panamanian freighter were winched to safety by helicopter after the ship's engine failed in high winds, coastguards said.

Much of Scotland was paralysed. Snow closed 20 major roads and in Glasgow families were evacuated and local authorities declared a state of emergency after two nights of flooding.

Heavy rain driven by winds of up to 150 kilometres per hour lashed the Netherlands, killing one motorist, police said Saturday.

Moscow said to have pledged unlimited support for Syria

BRUSSELS (R) — The Soviet Union has told the United States it will supply Syria with "everything it takes" to retain a foothold in the Middle East, U.S. Middle East expert Robert Neumann said Saturday.

Mr. Neumann said he and former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Harold Saunders were given this message, clearly intended to be transmitted to the Reagan administration, during private talks with senior Soviet officials in Moscow last month.

He said at a conference in Brussels on the future of NATO and global security that his delegation was told: "The Soviet Union is determined to remain in the Middle East and will not allow itself to be excluded."

"Syria is the Soviet Union's only window on the Middle East... the Soviet Union will give the Syr-

ians everything it takes — we were told that phrase repeatedly — to maintain its and the Soviet position in the area."

Mr. Neumann said they were told that if Syria were attacked, the Kremlin would not hesitate to escalate the conflict.

Mr. Neumann, a former ambassador to Saudi Arabia who is now director of Middle East studies at Georgetown University's Center for Strategic and International Studies, said his findings had been reported to the Reagan administration.

He strongly advocated withdrawing the Multinational Force

of U.S., French, Italian and British troops from Beirut and said the U.S. should frighten Lebanese President Amin Gemayel into carrying out real political reforms.

"In view of the open-ended Soviet supply line to Syria which we cannot match, it is clear we are in no position to outlast the Syrians," he said.

Mr. Neumann said his Soviet hosts had refused to make clear whether the threat of escalation would apply only to an attack on Syrian territory or also to an assault on Syrian positions in Lebanon.

He declined to identify most of the Soviet spokesmen whom his group met but told Reuters they included Yevgeny Primakov, head of a key Soviet Institute on Oriental Affairs, and officials at the Foreign Ministry and International Information Department of the Communist Party Central Committee.

The Soviet message "had the unmistakable ring of an official position which we were supposed to pass on to the administration. We were told these things repeatedly and taken aside privately to insist on these points," Mr. Neumann said.

His group ended a week of talks in Moscow on Dec. 3.

In a report to a working group of the Brussels conference, Mr. Neumann concluded that the U.S. must pull out of Lebanon "whether with a figleaf or not, or (it) will be forced by domestic political pressure to withdraw... as the failure of American policy becomes more dramatic."

Robert O'Neill, director of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, said this view was shared by several other key participants in the group, including former U.S. Defence Secretary James Schlesinger.

Junblatt, Kremlin officials attack U.S.

MOSCOW (R) — Lebanese Druze leader Walid Junblatt Friday joined senior Kremlin officials in attacking United States policy in the Middle East and calling for a withdrawal of the Western forces from Beirut.

During talks with candidate Politburo member Boris Ponomarev and a senior Soviet Middle Eastern specialist, Karen Brutents, Mr. Junblatt accused Washington of "gross interference" in Lebanon and of threatening Syria.

TASS News Agency reported. It said both sides demanded an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon and the U.S., French, Italian and British forces from Beirut.

The TASS report said Mr. Junblatt and his aides had declared their "quenchless desire" to solve

Lebanon's problems by peaceful means through national dialogue.

It did not mention the disputes between Lebanon's warring factions over a proposed internal peace plan and gave no indication if Mr. Ponomarev had voiced Moscow's views on the proposal.

Mr. Junblatt flew to Moscow Thursday after negotiations on the plan had stalled. Western diplomats said he may be seeking Soviet backing to strengthen his hand in future negotiations.

Mr. Junblatt was invited to Moscow as head of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) rather than on an official government-sponsored visit. He is a guest of the Soviet Communist Party.

Arab diplomatic sources said Moscow would keep contacts on a party-to-party basis to avoid giv-

ing the impression it was trying to interfere directly in Lebanon's internal conflicts.

Soviet leaders would value Mr. Junblatt's visit as evidence of Moscow's influence in the Middle East but would be likely to avoid coming out with a declaration of direct support for Mr. Junblatt's faction, they added.

TASS said Mr. Junblatt and Mr. Ponomarev had warned the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) against accepting "capitulatory" Middle East settlement proposals such as President Reagan's plan for a federated Palestinian-Jordanian state.

The warning appeared to be aimed at PLO leader Yasser Arafat, who in the past showed a readiness to discuss Mr. Reagan's proposal.

Chad blames Mengistu for failure of peace talks

N'DJAMENA (R) — The Chad government has put the full blame for the collapse of peace talks with Chadian rebels in Addis Ababa on Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam and Acting Secretary-General of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), Peter Onu.

The government protested about what it called the "inaccurate and offensive terms" used in Mr. Mengistu's communiqué Friday announcing his failure to get all Chadian factions around the negotiating table for the talks he had sponsored.

Mr. Mengistu said President Hissene Habre's absence was the main reason for the breakdown.

But Chadian Information Minister Mahamat Soumaila said in the government statement issued Friday night that "the absence of President Habre was motivated exclusively by the over-dignified welcome given to the rebels."

Rebel leader Goukouni Oueddei was met at Addis Airport when he arrived for the talks by Mr. Mengistu, current OAU chairman.

The government side felt this was a major breach of protocol which effectively placed Mr. Goukouni on the same level as Habre, whose government is recognised by the international community.

Mr. Soumaila said Mr. Mengistu and OAU had shown their "complicity" with Libya, which backs the main rebel factions.

Only "Tripoli's proteges" had been invited to the talks and Ethiopia had turned down a government request and refused visas to other Chadian opposition groups, he added.

Zayed hopeful of Islamic summit

ABU DHABI (R) — Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan, president of the United Arab Emirates, said Saturday he hoped the Islamic summit due to open in Casablanca on Monday would help guarantee the joint interests of Islamic countries.

Speaking at the opening session of the Federal National Council, the president said: "We look forward to taking part in the Islamic summit conference... with hope that we will reach the necessary resolution to serve our Islamic nation."

Thai delegation in Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — Thailand's deputy foreign minister, Prapas Limpabandhu, arrived in Baghdad Friday night for a two-day official visit. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

He will have talks with Iraqi officials on developing bilateral relations and expanding economic and trade exchanges between the two countries, the agency said.

Expelled Libyan officials interfered in Mauritius, prime minister says

PORT LOUIS (R) — Mauritian Prime Minister Anerood Jugnauth said Saturday that Libyan diplomats were expelled Friday because they were interfering in the island's affairs and had tried to destabilise the country.

Mr. Jugnauth, in his first comment on the expulsion, told a news conference: "The situation had become so intolerable and our decision was taken so as to safeguard the dignity and sovereignty of our country."

He said that the moment had

come when Mauritius had to expel the Libyans and ask for closure of the embassy.

Mr. Jugnauth said that the Libyans "people's bureau" had issued a document by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi in the past few days which was an "insult to the Christian religion."

The document said Christians did not understand the Islamic faith and appealed to them to study the Koran.

"One of the principles of Mauritian society is respect for reli-

gion. I will allow nobody to play with that to destabilise our society and to create another Lebanon or Cyprus," he said.

Mr. Jugnauth said he had no doubt that the document called for a cultural revolution.

"I do not accept that, much less from a foreigner. They did not have the right to attack any religion even if they thought theirs was superior. They could do that anywhere else but not here," he said.

Chadli expected to reshuffle government

PARIS (R) — Algerian President Chadli Benjedid, re-elected unopposed for another five-year term, is now expected to reshuffle his government and press ahead with the pragmatic economic policy he has followed since 1979.

Already, before the voting, several ministers had been dropped from the Central Committee of Chadli's National Liberation Front (FLN), the country's only legal party.

The Interior Ministry, quoted by the Algerian News Agency APS, said Mr. Chadli, a former army colonel, received 99.05 per cent of the ballots cast in Friday's poll, 95.36 per cent of the total number of people on the electoral lists.

Only 56,000 voted "no" against 4.7 million "yes" and there were 36,000 abstentions. APS, mon-

itored in Paris, said.

In addition to the ministers dropped from the FLN Central Committee, there have been unconfirmed reports that Foreign Minister Ahmad Taleb Ibrahim wants to be relieved of his post for health reasons.

At a congress of the FLN last month, Mr. Chadli was shown to be in full command.

He was given a standing ovation by the 5,000 delegates and his three-hour report on the past five years was adopted by a show of hands.

Mr. Chadli has given priority to the pressing daily needs of the population rather than pursuing previous policies of headlong industrialisation.

Algerians say they are better off now than five years ago, political

observers and diplomats in Algiers reported.

But problems such as housing remain to be solved.

The party congress, the only body to which the president is accountable, supported the priority given by Mr. Chadli to improved economic performance, administrative decentralisation and a larger role for the private sector within the general Socialist system.

The congress also decided to give emphasis to agriculture. This sector has shown poor results since independence from France in 1962, forcing Algeria to import large amounts of food.

Many speakers at the congress, the first regular one since 1979, said Algeria had to prepare for the "post-oil" period.

Iraqi Kurds start unification talks

BAGHDAD (R) — Unification talks between pro- and anti-government Kurdish political parties aimed at winning broader autonomy for Iraqi Kurdistan could also give Baghdad new leverage in its war with Iran, diplomats here said.

President Saddam Hussein and one of the Kurdish rebel leaders, Jalal Talabani, last month signed an agreement for a ceasefire in the northeastern province and further autonomy for its 2.5 million Kurds, they said.

They said the agreement was supposed to have been officially announced by President Hussein in his address to the nation on the Iraqi Army Day on Jan. 6, but was postponed for a later date "to enable the Kurdish parties to reunite and back up the agreement," they said.

Kurdish unification could help the government reach a settlement with anti-government Kurds and thus give Iraqi forces

on the war front with Iran a stronger military base, they said.

The government could use Kurdish support to provoke a revolt by Kurds living in northwestern Iraq. Iraq has been at war with Iran since September 1980.

The Kurdish parties now participating in the talks include the anti- and pro-government factions of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK), the pro-government Revolutionary Party of Kurdistan (RPK) and Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, the sources said.

The rebel DPK faction and the Iraqi Communist Party are the main opposition groups in Iraq. The sources said the rebel DPK faction is apparently headed by Masoud and Idris Barzani, sons of the late Mulla Mustafa Barzani who led the DPK struggle against Baghdad for two decades.

They said Mr. Barzani's less well known eldest son, Luqman, is

leading the unification talks and is supported by Mr. Talabani in the move, which could lead to an accord among the rebel groups and the legal Progressive Patriotic and Nationalist Front.

The front brings together the pro-government DPK faction, the RPK and the ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party (ABSP).

The Hussein-Talabani agreement envisaged new "free and democratic elections" for a legislative and an executive council for the autonomous region in northern Iraq formed in 1977, the diplomats said.

They said it also proposed the formation of a 40,000 member Kurdish army "to protect Kurdistan against foreign enemies" — in this case meaning Iran.

Groups of Kurds, with a language different from Arabic and Persian, have struggled repeatedly with central governments for more autonomy.

Rafsanjani: Iran does not believe in terrorism

TEHRAN (R) — The speaker of Iran's parliament has said his country does not believe in terrorism but has praised attacks on Western troops in Beirut as an honour to Islam. Tehran newspapers reported.

Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani told worshippers at Friday prayers here Iran would "support Islam wherever it wants to make a move but... will never interfere in the affairs of others or take illegal actions," the daily Kayhan International said.

"We are not terrorists and we don't believe terrorism to be successful. We don't think bombs could awaken the people," the paper quoted him as saying.

U.S. officials have blamed Iran

and its ally Syria for at least indirect involvement in attacks on troops of the Multinational Force in Lebanon and have said Iran is linked to a number of hardline guerrilla groups elsewhere.

"America used to look like a great terrifying monster and so did the Soviet Union," Mr. Rafsanjani told his audience at Tehran University.

"But now... they cannot raise their heads over their shelters in Beirut where on every corner an American, a Frenchman, a British, an Italian (members of the Multinational Force), a Falangist or an Israeli has made a nest."

A group of self-sacrificing "Mujahid (crusader) Muslims in Lebanon have brought all the air-

craft forces to their knees and this is enough to bring honour for Islam and disgrace for the arrogant world of East and West," the house speaker said.

Mr. Rafsanjani said although France and other Western countries claimed to be fighting terrorism they actually harboured some of the "worst terrorists in the world."

"How could you allow those terrorists into your country?" Mr. Rafsanjani asked without naming the individuals he had in mind.

"Why can't you tolerate our children who are carrying out cultural activities in France? You take them (Iranian students) and expel them roughly. France has nothing to say in reply," Kayhan Inter-

national quoted him as saying.

"The worst sort of terrorism... was directed against us in Iran and everybody knows it was based in France, Britain, Germany, the United States and Russia," the speaker continued.

Turning to Afghanistan, Rafsanjani said the Soviet Union was trapped and humbled there.

"These bare, poor and hungry Afghan people have given such a lesson to this powerful colonialist of the East that they have been trapped in the swamps of Afghanistan," he said.

"Do you know how honourable it is for Islam if it is true that they (Afghan Muslims) have destroyed 50,000 Russians in these three or four years?" he asked.

TASS warns Iran to stop criticising Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — The official Soviet TASS news agency warned Iranian leaders Saturday that sharp criticism of Moscow's involvement in Afghanistan would harm Soviet-Iranian trading links.

It said that Hojatoleslam Hashemi Rafsanjani, second most powerful cleric in the Iranian hierarchy, had recently attacked the role of the Soviet troops sent to support Kabul's government four years ago.

"By resorting to insulting attacks on Soviet servicemen, the Iranian leader does obvious damage to the spirit of cooperation that should determine the cha-

acter of Soviet-Iranian relations," TASS said.

"It is obvious that anti-Soviet attacks by high-ranking Iranian figures cannot but have a negative effect on those business contacts which are maintained with them within the framework of relations between the two neighbouring countries."

TASS condemned Iran's attitude towards the Afghan conflict and said Iranian leaders wanted to return Afghanistan to the dark times of feudalism, backwardness and poverty.

The agency also attacked Iran for allowing Afghan anti-

Communist guerrilla groups to set up what it called their "nests" inside Iranian territory.

TASS said Mr. Rafsanjani's criticism of the Soviet troops was included in a speech to religious figures attached to the Iranian Air Force.

Relations between Moscow and Tehran, never very warm since the overthrow of the Shah, have plummeted during the past year following a round-up of members of the Iranian Tudeh (Communist) Party and Iran's expulsion of 18 Soviet diplomats last May.

Last month, the Communist

Party daily Pravda said Iran's leaders were guided by blind fanaticism and warned them to stop what it described as a growing anti-Soviet campaign.

Diplomats regard the sharper Soviet attacks as evidence that Moscow has given up all hope of establishing a reasonable working relationship with the Islamic leadership in Tehran.

Soviet newspapers have also moved away from a policy of strict neutrality on the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq and begun accusing Tehran of blocking a settlement.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

16:30 Koran
16:40 Cartoons
18:00 Children's Programmes
18:30 Circus
19:20 Programme Review
19:30 Health and Life Programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic Series
21:30 News in Arabic
22:10 Arabic Series
23:05 News Summary

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Documentary: World in Action
21:00 Best Seller: Thorn Birds
22:00 News in English
22:15 Jane Eyre: Eps. 2

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99.4 MHz. FM
Party on 95.60 KHz. SW

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsweek
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
10:30 News in Arabic
11:00 Pop Session
12:00 News Summary
12:30 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:30 Science Report
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Old Favourites
16:30 Jazz Hour
17:00 News Summary
18:00 News Summary
18:05 News Summary
19:00 Date with a Star
19:30 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 News Summary
22:00 Evening Show
23:00 News Summary
23:03 Evening Show
24:00 News Headlines

BBC WORLD SERVICE

634.720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newsweek 06:30 The Back Family
06:45 Financial Review 06:55 Reflections
07:00 World News 07:09 British Press Review 07:15 Letterbox 07:30
07:30 Short Takes 07:45 Letter from America
08:00 Newsweek 08:30 Jazz for the Asks
09:00 World News 09:09 News from Our Own
09:15 News from Britain 09:25 From Our Own
09:30 Correspondent 09:35 A Closer Look
09:35 Recording of the Week 10:00
10:00 World News 10:09 Commentary
10:15 Good Books 10:30 The Painter of Signs
10:45 The Sandi Jones Request Show
10:50 The Rules of War 11:00
11:00 World News 11:09 World News
11:09 British Press Review 11:15 Science
11:15 In Action 11:45 Sports Review
12:15 Classical Record Review 12:30
12:30 Religious Service 13:00 World News
13:09 News from Britain 13:15 Letter
13:15 From America 13:30 Play of the Week
13:30 World News 13:39 Commentary
13:45 Good Books 14:00 The Painter of Signs
14:05 The Sandi Jones Request Show
14:10 The Rules of War 14:20
14:20 World News 14:29 Commentary
14:35 From Our Own Correspondent
14:45 Financial Review 14:55 Letter
14:55 From America 15:00 World News 15:09
15:09 Commentary 15:15 Sports Round-up
15:15 World News 15:24 Sports Round-up
15:24 World News 15:33 Jazz
15:33 Score 21:00 Piped Piper 21:15 Fixed Images
21:15 World News 22:09 Commentary
22:09 World News 22:30 Sunday
22:30 Half-Hour 22:30 Personal Impact 23:15
23:15 The Pleasure of News 24:00 World News
24:09 News in Action 00:00 Reflections
00:00 World News 00:09 Commentary 01:15
01:15 Letter from America 01:30 Motive for Murder

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260, KHz; 7200, 9565, 11740,
11925 & 15210

06:00 VOA Morning: News on the hour; news summaries; daily business report; sports and medicine; sports reports; VOA editorial and world and U.S. opinion roundups; documentary analysis; features 17:00 News 17:10 News Horizons and News Features 17:30 Special English News and Features 16:00 News 18:10 International Viewpoint 18:30 Music USA Standards 19:00 News 19:10 Critic's Choice 19:30 Special English News and Features 20:00 News 20:10 Sunday Report

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* Painting exhibition by Ujemia Rizk at the Royal Cultural Centre from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

* "Orientalism" original paintings, at the Alfa Art Gallery.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267
American Centre 44371
American Centre Library 41520
British Council 36147-A
French Cultural Centre 37189
Goethe Institute 41903
Soviet Cultural Centre 34973
Spanish Cultural Centre 24044
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
Hayat Arts Centre 667181
Y.W.C.A. 41793
Y.W.M.C.A. 664211
Amman Municipal Library 36111
University of Jordan Library 843555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre. Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.
Jordan National Gallery: Has an excellent collection of the antiquity of Jordan. Jabbal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabbal Luweibdeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.
Martyrs' Memorial (Military): Contains collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 654240.
Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel, 1:30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel, 1:30 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2:00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club, Jabbal Amman, Eighth Circle, Tel. 815261.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic): Jabbal Amman, Tel. 24590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic): Jabbal Luweibdeh, 37440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic): Jabbal Hussein, 66175.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox): Abadi, 23541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer): Jabbal Amman, 41559.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 71331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 66337.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox): Ashrafieh, 71751.
Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, 663249.

PRAYER TIMES

06:14 Fajr
06:37 (Sunrise) Shuruq
11:45 Dhuhr
16:35 Asr
16:55 Maghrib
18:17 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alfa information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (08) 53250, 53070, 53082, 53171, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

07:30 Cairo (EA)
08:05 Amman (RJ)
09:15 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:30 Damascus (RJ)
09:30 Jeddah (RJ)
09:45 Doha, Kuwait (RJ)
09:45 Cairo (EA)
10:40 Doha, Kuwait (RJ)
10:45 Tripoli, Lebanon (LN)
14:00 Kuwait (KAC)
14:30 Jeddah (RJ)
15:30 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
17:00 New York, Vienna (RJ)
17:35 London, Paris (RJ)
18:10 Paris, Damascus (AF)
18:20 Beirut (MEA)
18:40 Madrid, Rome (RJ)
18:40 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
18:50 Zurich, Damascus (SR)
20:00 Cairo (EA)
20:30 Athens (OA)
20:40 London (BA)
21:00 Damascus (RJ)
00:30 Cairo (RJ)
00:45 Baghdad (RJ)
01:05 Cairo (EA)</

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Hassan visits 'Obeidat

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday morning visited the prime ministry where he met Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat and congratulated him on his appointment to the post of prime minister. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Suleiman Arar.

Laila Sharaf to give press conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Information Laila Sharaf will hold a press conference Wednesday at which she will deal with major issues on the local, Arab and international arena according to a story in the Arabic daily Al Rai. Mrs. Sharaf will also debate in detail the letter of appointment of the new government and the government's reply. The conference, which is considered to be the first between Mrs. Sharaf and the press will be attended by reporters representing news agencies as well as local, Arab and world newspapers.

Lawzi receives more congratulations

AMMAN (Petra) — Delegations of prominent Jordanian figures Saturday called at the parliament to extend their congratulations to Mr. Ahmad Al Lawzi on his appointment as Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament. These included the Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Mr. Bahjat Al Talhoumi, Mr. Abdul Mun'im Al Rifa'i both former premiers, as well as former ministers, ambassadors accredited to the Royal Hashemite Court and tribal chieftains.

Jordan's U.N. envoy arrives for briefing

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's permanent representative at the United Nations Abdullah Salah Friday arrived in Amman on a short visit to Jordan. He will hold consultations with the government on his mission at the international organisation.

Man dies in hit and run crash

IRBID (J.T.) — An 18-year-old man died after being hit by a car Thursday night at the southern approaches to Irbid, according to a story in the Jordanian daily Al Rai. The driver was reported to have driven away after the accident and concerned authorities are investigating the accident.

Amman-Aqaba bus fares fixed

AMMAN (Petra) — Bus fares from Amman to Aqaba and in other direction will be fixed JD 2.5, according to instructions issued by Minister of Transport Taher Hikmat Saturday. The instructions stipulated that the buses, of the pullman type, should be modern, airconditioned and suitable for long distance travel.

Lower House to debate procedural affairs Monday

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament will hold its first ordinary session Monday to discuss a number of topics on its agenda.

At the outset of the session parliament members will hear a Royal Decree calling parliament to meet in its ordinary session, and a letter of resignation from the house's Speaker Kamel 'Ureikat who has been appointed member

of the Upper House.

The deputies are also expected to form a committee to draw up a reply to the speech from the throne and will elect members of the house's standing committee.

Other procedural affairs, which include the setting up of the house's financial, foreign affairs and legal committees are also expected to be carried out during the session.

Lawzi: Parliament will play full role at APU

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi Saturday stressed that the Jordanian parliament will take part in all activities of the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) meetings.

He was speaking at a meeting with North Yemen's ambassador to Jordan Ali Abu Lahoum who called to congratulate Mr. Lawzi

on his appointment as house speaker.

During the meeting they reviewed the agenda of the APU's 14th meeting which will be held in Sana'a shortly.

Jordan's parliament will regrettably not be able to take part in this meeting in view of the start of its first ordinary session, Mr. Lawzi said.

OIC ministers urge end to Gulf war

(Continued from page 1)

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd told the Kuwait newspaper Al Rai Al Aam in a recent interview that no move should be made to restore normal relations with Egypt until the matter has been discussed at the Arab summit meeting due to convene in Riyadh, in March.

Morocco's King Hassan II sent his chief political adviser, Reda

Guedira, to the Libyan capital, Tripoli, to deliver a personal appeal to Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi to come to the Casablanca summit. Moroccan officials said it was the third such appeal that King Hassan has sent to Col. Qadhafi in the past two weeks. There was no indication of Col. Qadhafi's reply.

The conference officials said Col. Qadhafi and Syrian President



Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Jordan and Ambassador of Qatar Sheikh Hamad Ibn Mohammad Ibn Jaber Al Thani Saturday delivers con-

gratulations on behalf of Arab and foreign diplomats to Ahmad 'Obeidat on assuming the post of prime minister (Petra photo)

Foreign diplomats congratulate 'Obeidat

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat Saturday morning received Arab and foreign ambassadors accredited to the Royal Hashemite Court.

Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Jordan and Ambassador of Qatar Sheikh Hamad Ibn Mohammad Ibn Jaber Al Thani delivered a speech congratulating the prime minister on the Royal confidence and expressing his hope that Jordan will achieve further progress and prosperity under His Majesty King Hussein's leadership.

Mr. 'Obeidat thanked the ambassadors and stressed Jordan's concern to provide them with all facilities to enable them to carry out their diplomatic tasks in the best possible manner.

Mr. 'Obeidat further added that Jordan's foreign ministry will help in conveying Jordan's policy to the world.

Attending the meeting were: Minister of Foreign Affairs Taher Al Masri and the director of the protocol department, Tareq Madi.

Mr. 'Obeidat also received in his office Saturday morning Senate members Bahjat Al Talhoumi and Abdul Mun'im Al Rifa'i, as well as the deported mayor of Hebron, Fahd Qawasme, presidents of professional associations and president and members of the Jordanian Journalists Association board.

Also delegations representing the East and West banks and a cross section of Jordanian public continued to call at the prime min-

istry to congratulate Mr. 'Obeidat and the new cabinet, wishing them every success.

Meanwhile the prime minister received a number of cables of congratulations from the presidents of North and South Yemen, the Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi, and the Chinese, Japanese and Argentinian prime ministers.

Meanwhile, Mr. 'Obeidat Saturday evening received Egypt's Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Mustafa Kamel Al Sa'id who congratulated him on his appointment as prime minister.

Mr. Sa'id arrived in Amman Friday to take part in a three-day seminar on international monetary developments and Arab monetary cooperation in the 1980s.

Police nab housebreak robbers

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman police announced Saturday that they have apprehended a five-member gang of robbers who had broken into a number of homes stealing various items.

A police spokesman said that the five had stolen electrical equipment, cassettes recorder, blankets, suitcases and other items, altogether worth JD 10,000.

The items were found in the robbers' hideout which was searched by police, the spokesman said. The group, he said, has been referred to judicial authorities for trial.

Also apprehended by Amman police, was a 16-year-old youth who had broken into a house in Jabal Jofeh and stolen JD 9,000 which had been locked in a cupboard. The police received a complaint about the robbery from Nash'at Riyal, the house owner and police visited the scene, finding that the youth had entered the house using a door key which he had found by the doorstep.

When apprehended, the youth, identified only as KHA, was found in possession of JD 7,000 only, the spokesman said.

Saket regrets American pullout from UNESCO

AMMAN (J.T.) — Education Minister Hikmat Al Saket Saturday voiced Jordan's regret for the Reagan administration's decision to pull out from United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) at a meeting with visiting U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for International Organisation Gregory Newell.

Jordan hopes the U.S. will reconsider its decision in view of the vital role which UNESCO plays in promoting understanding and spreading culture and education among nations, the minister said at the meeting.

He added that the U.S., with its huge resources and potential, should not shirk its responsibility

towards such an important organisation and promoting its worthy causes.

At the meeting, Mr. Newell explained the causes behind his government's decision to withdraw from UNESCO and also Washington's stand with regard to various U.N. organisations.

Earlier, Mr. Newell met the Ministry of Education's Secretary-General Abdul Latif Arabiyat who urged the U.S. government to continue its support for and aid to UNESCO to enable it fully to implement its programme.

The U.S. official who arrived Thursday on a few days visit to Jordan has already met Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri.

Balqa health seminar opens

SALT (Petra) — The Ministry of Health opened a course on basic medical health care here Saturday for doctors in the Balqa Governorate.

The four-week course, opened by the Balqa Governorate health director, is designed to orientate participating doctors in concepts of basic health, environmental health, control of water and foodstuffs in addition to vocational health and children care.

The 17-member participants will also visit wastewater treatment plant, factories and mother and child health care centres in the area.

French economic team meets chamber head

AMMAN (Petra) — The visiting French technical and economic mission Saturday conferred with the president and members of the Amman Chamber of Commerce.

President of the chamber Issam Budair welcomed the mission and stressed the importance of promoting and expanding economic

relations between Jordan and France.

Head of the French mission also emphasised the importance of expanding the economic activities between the two countries.

The meeting was attended by the chamber's Director Ali Al Dajani and the economic consul at the French embassy in Amman.

Prime Minister meets Peking parliamentary team

'Obeidat urges closer cooperation with China

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat Saturday expressed the hope that Jordan and the People's Republic of China will continue to hold consultations and talks with the purpose of promoting cooperation in various fields.

end to Israel's aggression and occupation of Arab lands.

For his part, the Chinese delegation's leader said that the Chinese president's visit to Jordan is expected to further Jordanian-Chinese ties.

Mr. 'Obeidat was speaking at a meeting in his office with the visiting Chinese parliamentary delegation led by Wang Ren Zhong.

He also expressed the hope that the delegation's visit will contribute towards further expanding the scope of bilateral cooperation.

The prime minister referred to King Hussein's visit to China last year and its positive effect in helping to bolster the two countries' relations.

"Jordan looks to your great country and takes pride in its friendship. We also look forward to the Chinese president's visit to Jordan," the prime minister said.

He said that Jordan appreciates China's support for the Palestinian people's rights and hopes to win cooperation from other nations too for helping to establish peace in the region and to put an

Mr. Zhong voiced his delegation's appreciation at Jordan's cooperation and hospitality, and China's admiration for the country's progress in various economic, and cultural fields.

He then reiterated his country's total support for the Palestinian people's struggle to liberate their homeland from Israeli rule.

Mr. Zhong also extended an invitation to Mr. 'Obeidat to visit China.



Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat (right) receives Saturday a visiting Chinese parliamentary delegation (Petra photo)

Newell defends U.S. withdrawal decision

By Affah A. Kaloti
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The U.S. government's recent decision to withdraw from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) was not taken in isolation but was rather part of an overall policy change towards multilateral organisations, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for International Organisations Gregory Newell said Saturday.

Mr. Newell was speaking at a discussion meeting to explain the reasons behind the U.S. withdrawal from UNESCO held Saturday at the American Centre.

He pointed out that because the U.S. participates in and contributes to some 96 multilateral organisations, three years ago the Reagan administration undertook to review the effectiveness of each these.

As a guideline to this task, Mr. Newell said the U.S. had established five policy priorities for U.S. involvement in multilateral affairs.

The first, he said, was the reassertion of American leadership in international organisations.

The second is increasing the role of the private sector in each of these 96 organisations, Mr. Newell added.

Increasing the informal communications mechanisms thus "seeking to limit the number of times formal conferences are convened," is the third priority, he said.

The fourth and fifth policies, Mr. Newell said, is that of budget management and increasing the number of Americans serving in these multilateral organisations respectively.

He said that through this review three major problems in UNE-

SCO had surfaced.

Giving a brief account of these, Mr. Newell said that the first was politicisation. By this I mean injecting purely political elements into the programmes and conferences of the technical and specialised agencies.

Peace, disarmament, human rights and the new world information order are examples of this, he said, as "questions of disarmament and peace do not belong within the scope of UNESCO and should be discussed in the disarmament committee."

UNESCO insisted on pursuing these objectives however and its efforts in the direction of development suffered as a result.

The second problem surrounded the issue of assigning to the state the role of development in education, science, culture, and the economy. This had the effect of denigrating the free market system of free enterprise.

Delegate leaves for Arab industry committee talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the meetings of the Arab industry technical committee scheduled to start in Algeria in the middle of this month.

Director of industry at the Ministry of Industry and Trade and Tourism, Dr. Akram Karmoul left for Algeria Saturday to represent Jordan at the meeting which will discuss studies prepared by the Arab Organisation for Industrial Development in Baghdad.

The studies deal with current and future developments in heavy and capital intensive industries in the Arab World and ways of promoting them.

In addition, it is expected to recommend a list of joint venture industries which could be established in Arab countries.

Dr. Karmoul added that a number of studies on foodstuff, petrochemicals, fertilisers and clothes industries will also be debated and will be submitted to the sixth conference on Arab Industrial Development scheduled to be held in Damascus at the end of the first quarter of the current year.

The committee includes representatives of Jordan, Algeria and Iraq.

UNESCO's third problem is that of budgetary management and successive increases in contributions, he said.

He said that UNESCO had no effective restraints on its spending.

Mr. Newell also pointed out that UNESCO now ignores its prime objectives of teaching people to read and write.

Mr. Newell said that because the U.S. government is sincerely concerned with effective and genuine development and not just political questions, "it was decided to withdraw from UNESCO because \$50 million of the U.S. contribution is not being used for the right purposes."

Later, Mr. Newell left Jordan for home and was seen off at the Queen Alia International Airport by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Seminar stresses need for economic integration

(Continued from page 1)

integration and boosting development in all Arab states.

The current seminar, he said, "complements the loyal efforts of the AMF and those in charge of its administration, particularly Mr. Ghobash, with a view to consulting member states in what they deem as necessary in the field of Arab monetary co-operation at this stage. Therefore, he added, the various subjects aimed at bolstering scopes of Arab monetary co-operation distinguish this seminar.

"The hopes we attach to Arab economic integration," Mr. Nabulsi said, "adduces a special significance." Integration, he added, cannot be achieved unless it is coupled with monetary co-operation which assist in the correlation process and supplements it. "There is no doubt that development on a sound and practical basis is the best guarantee for Arab countries to liberate themselves from negative effects imposed by the confusion in the international economy on Arab economy."

Arab countries are not isolated from what is happening on the international arena because they influence and are influenced by international economic developments, Mr. Ghobash pointed out in a speech at the seminar.

Mr. Ghobash said that intensive efforts were exerted in the field of Arab monetary co-operation, with a view to laying down its constituents. "Despite the fact that these efforts did not succeed," he said, "they were preliminary steps for establishing an infrastructure of Arab monetary co-operation in the form of specialised institutions through which work on its gradual development can proceed."

The AMF appears to be as one of these institutions with goals covering all aspects of Arab monetary integration, he said.

The circumstances prevailing in the 1970s, Mr. Ghobash said, led to establishing such an institution. It aids to adjust balances of payment, promotes trade exchange among Arab countries, settle their payments, develop their financial markets, and arranges for stabilising exchange rates of their currencies.

Mr. Ghobash expected that deficit in balances of payments of some member Arab countries will

augment, while surpluses in other member states will drop. This entails high standards of co-operation and co-ordination and continuous support for Arab integration institutions.

Dr. Khalil Salem, secretary general of the ATF delivered a speech at the seminar in which he called on the AMF to initiate new policies and methods capable of ensuring sufficient guarantees for investors and providing necessary financing for debtors.

Dr. Salem pointed out that the AMF, Arab central banks, specialised credit corporations and financial institutions have major roles to play in attracting official and individual savings and directing them towards guaranteed investments in comprehensive Arab development projects.

All Arab countries are shareholders in the Abu Dhabi-based AMF which was established in 1977 to help its members overcome their balance of payments problems.

Attending the seminar were about 160 Jordanian and Arab intellectuals and experts in Arab and international economic and monetary affairs.

Long-term policy tackles problems of education

By Anne Counsell
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "One of the major problems facing the development of education in Jordan is the lack of purpose — built institutions for teaching purposes," according to Dr. Mohammed Abu Sal, assistant director of projects at the Ministry of Education. He explained that the rapid annual growth in the number of students at various levels had not been matched by a similar growth in suitable school facilities, compelling the Ministry of Education to resort to the renting of buildings to be used as schools even though they lacked the required facilities. In addition to this, a two-shift system had to be applied to maximise the use of scarce facilities.

Long-term planning

Dr. Abu Sal said that the Directorate of Planning at the Ministry of Education, together with the National Planning Council (NPC), had studied the needs of the country regarding education and that a series of projects were already in operation to try and

overcome these problems. He added that, because of the magnitude of the current problems, the projects were long-term ventures which aimed to meet the needs of the country through trained manpower. Dr. Abu Sal and Mr. Omar Sober, head of the engineering department at the Directorate of Projects, outlined the current projects and plans to improve schooling and training facilities.

They said that the third education project is in its closing stages. It comprises, they explained, two comprehensive secondary schools for boys and one for girls, extensions of two schools to convert them from general secondary schools to comprehensive secondary schools, the completion of the first community college planned by the ministry three years ago, as well as a trade training complex which includes a vocational secondary school and extensions to the agricultural community college in Shobak in addition to the purchase of eight mobile maintenance units.

The fourth education project is in the first stages of construction and is estimated to cost \$50 million, half of which is being loaned

by the World Bank. Dr. Abu Sal also said that when the World Bank delegation came to Jordan to discuss the components of the project, it was decided to start constructing general vocational schools in place of the previous policy which gave priority to specialised schools for industry, commerce or nursing. Two general vocational schools for boys and another two for girls, covering a wide range of vocational subjects, will be built in various parts of the country as part of the project. Another component of the project is the expansion of three community colleges in Salt, Maqqa and Hawar and the establishment of new community colleges for engineering vocations, he added.

Dr. Abu Sal went on to outline the fifth education project which is being funded by various international agencies. He said that the World Bank will contribute \$18.8 million, the Saudi fund \$23 million and the United Kingdom Overseas Development Agency (ODA) £2 million for the financing of the scheme.

Tender award this week

Mr. Sober said that the project

is in the preparatory stages, with the sites allocated and the plans prepared by consultants. He added that the tenders for construction will be awarded sometime this week following Saudi approval of the pre-qualifying contractors. Dr. Abu Sal said that the fifth project includes the construction of 18 institutions: three central secondary schools, one in via an another in Duhail and the third in Maqqa, five general vocational schools for boys and 10 general vocational schools for girls in various parts of the country.

ODA are financing the equipment needed for the five general vocational schools for boys. The Saudi fund is contributing 55 per cent of the construction cost for the 15 vocational schools and approximately 47 per cent of the construction costs of the three central schools, he said. Other construction costs and professional and technical assistance will be financed by the World Bank.

The final current scheme is the sixth educational project to which the World Bank is lending \$40 million following discussions in Washington earlier this month between ministry Secretary-

General Abdul Latif Arabiyat and the World Bank. Dr. Abu Sal said that the project will comprise 33 compulsory preparatory schools, 18 general secondary schools and 53 laboratories, 49 libraries and 50 multi-purpose halls in various areas of the country. Dr. Abu Sal said that the money had been allocated of which \$24 million is for civil works, \$10 million for equipment, \$800,000 for consultants' services, \$800,000 for training purposes and expertise while \$4,400,000 is as yet unallocated.

The components for each project are decided by the Directorate of Educational Planning at the ministry according to their policy priorities and the requirements of society for trained personnel in various fields. Dr. Abu Sal concluded by saying that these projects are on a long-term scale as all the rented buildings that are inappropriate for use as schools cannot be replaced during the period of one project, due to a lack of finance for such a large-scale operation. However, the ministry is gradually improving the situation and the schooling facilities through the implementation of these projects, he said.

Jordan Times

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The Jordan Times is published daily except on public holidays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

The scars of Lebanon

THE scars and bruises of the invasion of Lebanon are all showing up on Israel, body and face. Economically, the Zionist state is bankrupt. Politically, it is weak. And socially, it is divided.

The Israelis can count their involvement in Lebanon the way they want. But they know it is their morass, and are presently in the search for a way out. Any face-saving formula would do for them, it seems, but one has to be always wary of Israel's intentions, especially, under pressure.

The Israeli government may now accept a continuing Syrian presence in Lebanon. Before, any Syrian presence there was totally unacceptable. A reversal of the Israeli official position or not, Shamir and Co. apparently need to get out, and soon.

Appearing on Israeli Television the other day, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was asked whether his government would consider another partial pullback from South Lebanon. He said that his army was in the stage of leaving Lebanon and therefore any proposal in that direction would be considered. Israel would like to withdraw "very soon", he said, but refused to commit himself to target date.

If Israel truly wants to pull out of Lebanon, what is holding its government from doing so? Surely, it is not so much the May, 1983 withdrawal accord that, because of Syria's objections, would not be implemented, or the Lebanese security plan that is still waiting Syrian approval.

Then what? The Americans, through their Middle East envoy Rumsfeld, have been attempting to narrow Lebanese difference so that they could withdraw their Marines from Beirut, in order avoid a situation that could even get much worse. But U.S. efforts have not produced fruit, and only two days ago we heard Secretary of State Shultz say that the prospects for stability in Lebanon seemed dimmer than before.

So, what is everybody waiting for, the Arabs this time included? And how will things polarise in the end vis-a-vis the bleeding state of Lebanon?

Perhaps nobody knows. But the simple answer lies in the fact that all non-Lebanese should get out of Lebanon the way they came, and Israel, if only for internal or other considerations, must oblige first.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Arab summit prelude

THE ISLAMIC summit conference is due to open in Casablanca, Morocco Monday and the leaders are expected to discuss the Palestine issue among a host of other problems of concern to the Islamic World. Israel's occupation of Lebanon, the Iran-Iraq war and the Afghanistan question will also figure prominently at the conference. The participants are mostly Arabs and more than half the issues to be discussed pertain to the Arab World. The results of the conference will therefore have a direct impact on any future Arab summit conference.

The Arab masses hope that their leaders have by now learnt their lessons from past events, and will play a positive role at Casablanca which will pave the way for a successful Arab summit. For example they should not act in such a way as to deepen Arab differences nor should they commit themselves to do something which might directly or indirectly harm Arab solidarity. The Arab leaders ought to work in harmony for the sake of serving their just causes, foremost of which is the Palestine issue. We indeed hope that the Casablanca gathering will help bolster Arab solidarity and pave the way for a fruitful Arab summit.

Al Dustour: Closer to partition

THE OUTBREAK of factional fighting in Beirut reflects not only the Lebanese government's inability to handle the situation but also the failure of international efforts to put an end to the Lebanese conflict. The renewal of this fighting in Lebanon also places all major parties involved in the Lebanon issue, particularly the U.S., face to face with their responsibilities. The Lebanese people had been hoping to see an end to their ordeal by an overall agreement between the opposing factions and had hoped that the Multi-National Force would serve as a positive factor towards stabilising the situation in the country.

Now, their hopes have been dashed and the Lebanese are more inclined to believe that their country is nearer to partition than at any other time in the past. To make things worse, the U.S. Marines and other troops of the Multi-National Force are becoming more and more involved in the actual fighting against the factions opposed to the Beirut government. The Lebanese issue has now entered a very complicated stage and the Lebanese should re-double their efforts to reach a solution that would ensure peace in their country.

Sawt Al Shaab: Mainstays of Israel

ISRAELI CIVIL servants are due to stage a two-hour strike Sunday in which they will stop government business to back demands for higher pay. At the same time representatives of the Israeli government and Zionist settlers continue their meetings with the hope of arriving at solutions to problems arising from a government decision to make cuts in the settlements' budget. It is thus clear that the Israeli government and the Zionist leaders are now incapable of handling the deteriorating economic situation in Israel and the rising inflation rate which was quoted to be running at 500 per cent.

These moves against inflation and worsening economy are being tackled by Israeli officials as their government continues its policy of clinging to occupied Arab lands and to the aggression and annexation of Arab property. Of course there are other problems that the Zionist state is facing and, sooner or later, it will succumb to this pressure. The Zionists seem no more able to pursue aggressive policies and new adventures in the Arab countries without being injected with additional American military and economic aid. Also the Zionist leaders now find themselves unable to persuade Jews from around the world to come and settle in Israel. Israel, it is to be emphasised, lives off two things: Continued divisions among the Arabs and continued imperialist support and assistance. Once these two factors are eliminated, the Israeli-Zionist state will cease to exist.

Jordanian economy did well under Badran; more is needed from the new government

By Fahed Fanek

NO-ONE CAN deny the economic achievements of the government of Mr. Mudar Badran. The past eight years were extremely important to the Jordanian economy, especially when it comes to the augmentation of the domestic production capabilities.

It is estimated that the public administration under Badran spent over JD 3.3 billion (\$10 billion) on both recurring and development purposes, an amount which could be in excess of the total public expenditure in the history of Jordan under previous administrations since its inception as a modern state 60 years ago.

If we compare 1983 to the base year of 1975, we find that the economic growth as phenomenal as shown below:

1- Agriculture: Value added in this sector increased from JD 26 million in 1975 to JD 100 million in 1983, a growth of 285 per cent in eight years or 18.4 per cent per annum in current prices and 7.2 per cent p.a. in real terms.

2- Manufacturing and mining increased from JD 56 million in 1975 to JD 240 million in 1983, a growth of 328 per cent in eight years or 20 per cent per annum in current prices for 8.7 per cent in real terms.

3- Electricity and water grew from JD 3.1 million in 1975 to JD 27 million in 1983, a jump

of 771 per cent or 31.1 per cent p.a. in current prices or 18.8 per cent in constant prices.

4- The contribution of construction increased from JD 19.2 million in 1975 to JD 125 million in 1983 an increase of 551 per cent in eight years or a growth of 26.4 per cent p.a. in current prices or 14.5 per cent in real terms.

5- Trade income rose from JD 66.9 million in 1975 to JD 230 million in 1983, an increase of 244 per cent in eight years or a growth of 16.7 per cent p.a. in current prices or 5.7 per cent in real terms.

6- Contribution of the transport and communications sector rose from JD 24.9 million in 1975 to JD 150 million in 1983, an increase of 502 per cent in eight years or a growth of 25.2 per cent p.a. in current prices or 13.4 per cent in real terms.

7- Public administration and defence share (government services) amounted to JD 65.2 million in 1975 and reached JD 235 million in 1983, an increase of 260 per cent in eight years, or a growth of 17.4 per cent in current prices, or 6.4 per cent in real terms.

8- Other services contributed JD 51 million in 1975 and JD 210 million in 1983, an increase of 312 per cent in eight years, or a growth of 19.4 per cent p.a. in current prices,

or 8.2 per cent in constant prices.

Thus the gross domestic product (at cost) increased from JD 312.3 million in 1975 to JD 1,317 in 1983, an increase of 312 per cent in eight years, or an annual growth of 19.4 per cent in current prices, and 8.5 per cent in real terms.

The overall compound annual growth in real terms, i.e. in the constant prices of 1975, averaged 8.5 per cent for the gross domestic product (GNP) at cost, 9.6 per cent at market prices including indirect taxes net of subsidies.

The GNP including transfers and income from abroad grew from 385.5 million in 1975 to JD 1,819 million in 1983 an increase of 372 per cent in eight years, or an annual growth of 21.4 per cent in current prices and 10.0 per cent in real terms, one of the highest growth rates achieved in the world.

Capital formation during the Five Year Economic and Social Development Plan 1975-1980 reached JD 1,222 million of which JD 500 million were made directly by the public sector. It is estimated that the capital formation during the years 1981-1983 was in excess of JD 1,500 million, of which 50 per cent was contributed by the public sector, which makes the total capital formation in eight years in the order of JD 2,720

million of which at least JD 1,250 million were made by the public sector.

Foreign trade also showed a fast growth. National exports increased from JD 48.9 million in 1975 to JD 180 million in 1983, an annual growth of 17.7 per cent in current prices, and 6.7 per cent in real terms. Imports on the other hand swelled from JD 234 million in 1975 to JD 1,100 million in 1983 an annual growth of 21.4 per cent in current prices and 10 per cent in real terms.

Trade deficit increased five fold from JD 185.1 million in 1975 to JD 920 million in 1983, an annual increase of 22.2 per cent in current prices or 10.7 per cent in real terms.

Except for 1982 and possibly 1983, the balance of payments showed a surplus during the past eight years, which allowed the country's reserves in gold and foreign exchange to increase from JD 175 million in 1975 to around JD 700 million in 1983.

If we subtract the banking system liabilities in foreign currencies to non-residents, we can guess that the net surplus in the balance of payments for the period under review was around JD 240 million.

Finally inflation, measured by the cost of living index, was running at an average annual rate of 10.3 per cent. The mar-

ket price of the basket of goods and services consumed by the average Jordanian family increased from a base of 100 in 1975 to 220 in 1983. In other words one Jordan dinar in 1975 is worth JD 2.20 in 1983.

One can say that Jordan was not the only country in the Middle East with a high growth rate during the last eight years, as all countries in our oil-rich part of the world did grow at various rates. This is absolutely true but should not prevent us from giving credit where and if it is due.

Perhaps the most important single test to judge this period from the development point of view is to evaluate the future of our big projects: Potash, Fertilisers, Cement and Phosphate expansion. These projects will either make or break the national economy and the drive towards financial self-sufficiency.

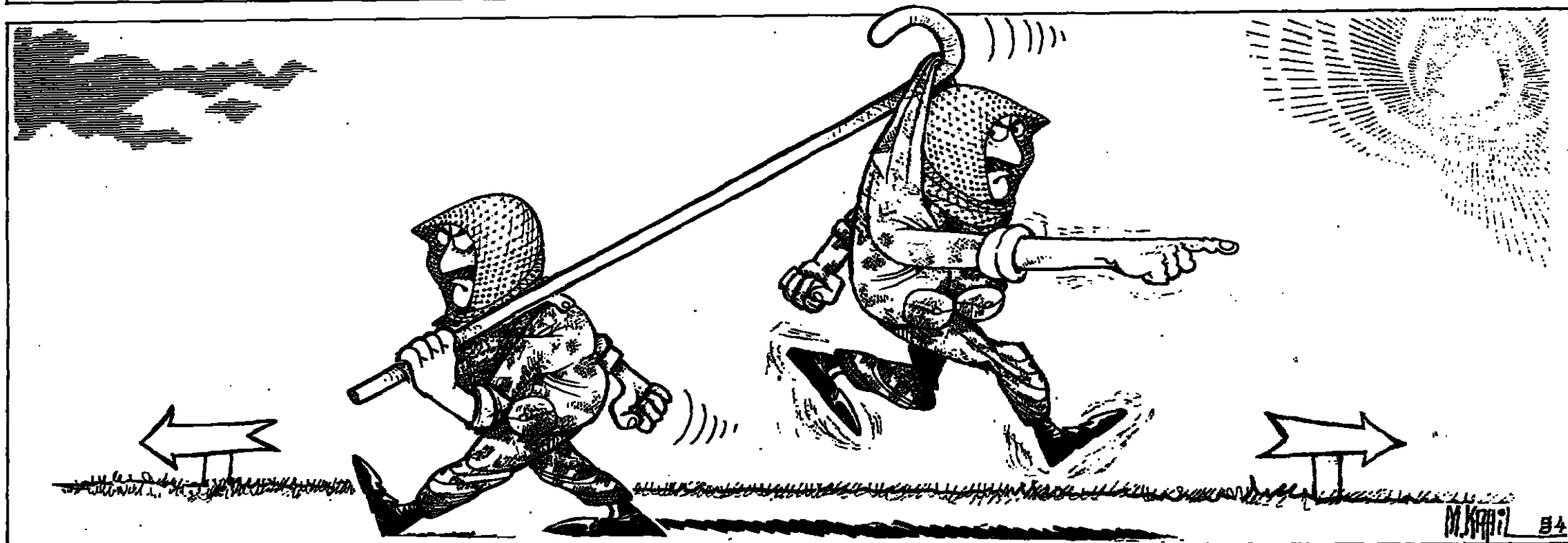
For a long time we were looking forward to those projects as our way to modernisation and augmenting our production facilities and export capabilities. The implementation took longer time and cost more than planned, and the completion came at an odd time during the worst world economic recession in recent years, but here they are, fully operational and pro-

ducing. The last two years witnessed a slow down in the economic performance due to the setback in the Arab oil producing countries, the continuation of Iraq-Iran war and the prolonged world economic recession. These factors resulted in the reduction of Arab financial support for the budget, the closure of Iraqi market to our manufacturing and agricultural products and a drop in prices and demand for our primary products: phosphate, potash and fertilisers.

The new set of circumstances calls for a new set of policies in the monetary, fiscal and development fields, which need new blood and fresh minds that are not committed to the past and can make the necessary changes without wasting the time in defending mistakes or justifying old policies or inefficient managers instead of correcting them.

Hence the emergence of the government of Mr. Ahmad Obekiat is timely and is expected to face the burden of conducting the overdue adjustments and changes.

While we are wholeheartedly appreciating the achievements of the previous government, we are equally relieved to have a new dynamic government and wish the new team every success.



Kissinger Commission: Big money for C.American allies

By Bernd Debusmann
Reuters

MEXICO CITY — The Kissinger Commission's recommendation for massive aid to Washington's friends in Central America spotlights a carrot-and-stick approach which has so far failed to curb violence in the turbulent region, political analysts say.

They also said the \$8 billion economic assistance proposed by the commission, a doubling from the 1983 level, reflected a tacit admission that Central America's problems stemmed from glaring social and economic inequalities as much as from outside interference.

In the past, the Reagan administration has frequently identified Nicaragua as the main focus of trouble in the region, saying its left-wing leaders exported Marxist revolution to the rest of

the area at the behest of Cuba and the Soviet Union.

The recommendations of the commission were made public three days after foreign ministers of five Central American countries and the four nations of the "Contadora Group" — Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, Panama — agreed to work towards peace in Central America.

But neither the proposed U.S. aid package nor the Contadora agreement appeared likely to bring a swift end to the guerrilla war being fought in three countries, diplomats said.

They added that the confrontation between Nicaragua on the one hand and the U.S. and its closest ally in the region, Honduras, on the other, could well sharpen with the proposed infusion of more economic and military aid to Honduras.

The Kissinger panel, set up last July to work out long-range poli-

cies, balanced the carrot of more aid to pro-U.S. governments with a big stick for Nicaragua — continued backing of right-wing insurgents fighting the ruling Sandinist National Liberation Front from bases in Honduras.

The rebels, now estimated to number almost 10,000, have been waging a one-year campaign to overthrow the Sandinists but many military experts feel it has little chance of success.

One of the first reactions to the commission's report came from Edgar Chamorro, a leader of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force the main U.S.-backed insurgent group.

"We agree with the report's emphasis on the threat the Nicaraguan revolution poses to the rest of the hemisphere," he told Reuters. "It appears the commission agrees with what we have been saying all along: that the Sandinist regime is the largest threat

to U.S. interests since the Cuban revolution."

Release of the commission's proposals coincided with reports that the U.S. was intending to open a new series of joint manoeuvres in Honduras. Last year, more than 5,000 U.S. soldiers joined the Honduran army in the biggest war games ever held in Central America. Some 3,000 U.S. soldiers remain in the country.

The Contadora nations, as well as many West European countries, disagree with such assessments.

Central America is a region of social and economic inequalities glaring even by Third World standards and critics of the Reagan administration say poverty and unemployment provide ideal breeding ground for left-wing revolution.

Whether large-scale aid to pro-Washington governments in

the area will end these inequalities remains to be seen.

El Salvador, for example, has received almost \$1 billion of U.S. economic and military aid over the past four years to become one of the world's leading beneficiaries of U.S. largesse.

Despite this assistance to a country of only five million people, the army has suffered a series of humiliating reverses in recent months at the hands of a guerrilla force which Western experts say is growing both in numbers and competence.

U.S.-prompted attempts to change the economic structure have been thwarted by the country's powerful right which objected to far-reaching land reforms. Largely because of the war, export earnings fell from slightly over \$1 billion in 1979 to 705 million last year.

Latin America's Left shrugged off the recommendations of the

Kissinger Commission even before they were published, arguing that more aid was aimed chiefly at locking El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Costa Rica more firmly into Washington's orbit.

"The Kissinger Commission... recommends steps to tighten (U.S.) domination over Central America but it will fail," said the Mexican newspaper El Dia which often reflects government views.

Although the report provided for aid to be spread over five years, to some Latin American officials it still smacked of crisis management on the pattern of "we have a problem, let's go and throw money and arms at it."

Such views were mirrored at the end of the Contadora meeting last week by Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo. "Unfortunately, the United States has always reacted when faced with a crisis without pursuing a permanent policy," he said.

It took an 'oil-sniffer' mania to cheat France's former bosses

France has been stunned by revelations that the leading state-owned oil group, a former president of the Republic and his prime minister were all victims of a confidence trick. David Housego reports.

PARIS — Mr. Pierre Mauroy, the French prime minister, is said to have laughed aloud: many other Frenchmen are likely to have done the same.

For a "confidential" government report which was published in full this month is a hilarious tale of how the Elf, oil group, the former French president and his prime minister were taken in by a massive swindle.

It describes how the senior management of the Elf group, Mr. Giscard d'Estaing and Mr. Raymond Barre all backed an aircraft-borne electronic system which could allegedly detect underground oil deposits from the air. The system turned out to be a gigantic fraud.

The government of President Francois Mitterrand is to publish the "oil sniffer aircraft" report in

paperback and it seems likely to be a best seller.

But the report is also a major political document with far-reaching implications. Prepared by the state auditing authority, the Cour des Comptes, it provides a crushing indictment of the senior management of the Elf group during the years 1976 to 1979. Some of those responsible are still with the company.

Taken with the other official memoranda included in the government version, it is equally damning of the lack of judgment and naivete of Mr. d'Estaing and Mr. Barre.

The two men are both potential candidates for the Opposition in the next presidential contest in 1988. Because of that, it is clear that like Watergate in the U.S. or the Dreyfus case for a previous

generation in France, the "oil sniffer" affair will not easily fizzle out.

The report of Mr. Francois Giquel of the Cour des Comptes shows that the electronic system fitted to aircraft, which it was hoped would revolutionise oil exploration and the spotting of nuclear submarines was far from a miracle device. For several years Elf's leadership, President Giscard and Mr. Barre believed that the new system would provide a radar "image" from the air of underground oil, water and mineral structures, and that it had important defence implications in terms of submarine detection.

The report says that in fact the "image" was obtained by projecting a pre-recorded photocopy of the outlines of a structure (normally an oil structure) on to a screen. The instrument was the "invention" of an Italian, Mr. Aldo Bonassoli, who claimed to have worked at the Enrico-Fermi Institute in Milan. Private deci-

detives later found that "he had left no trace of his stay on its books."

The fraud was finally unmasked by calling in the head of the Fundamental Research Institute of the French Atomic Energy Commission. On May 24, 1979 he tested the instrument by telling Mr. Bonassoli that he was putting a metal ruler behind a wall. The intention was that the scanner would pick up its shape on the screen. But as the report goes on to recount, "unknown to Mr. Bonassoli, he partially bent (the ruler) and twisted it so as to form a V shape with arms of unequal length. The image of a perfectly straight ruler lying horizontally appeared nonetheless on the screen..." The report is unambiguous in its condemnation. "The equipment delivered in Elf was a total fraud," it says. It blames the company, saying that for two years its leaders failed to "ask themselves not only about the reliability of the equipment but about the good faith of

its inventors or at least their scientific credentials. Nothing in this direction was attempted."

On Mr. Giquel's calculation, Elf lost in the affair between FF740 million (\$87 million) and FF790 million (\$93 million). This is equivalent to about a third of its exploration budget in the years 1976-78. Much of the money was channelled out of France by irregular means but with the authorisation of Mr. Barre.

The reasons why such ill-considered members of the French establishment were taken in seem to be a chain of unquestioning trust between men of similar views and values.

The chain included Mr. Pierre Guillaumat, then head of Elf, one of the fathers of the French oil industry and a former minister of the armed forces under General de Gaulle, who launched Elf into the project and explained it to Mr. Giscard. Mr. Antoine Pinay, a former prime minister who lent the report his name while it was

still at a tentative stage; and Mr. Philippe de Wock, former president of Union des Banques Suisses, the second largest Swiss banking corporation, who did most to give it financial backing. President Giscard drew in Mr. Barre, but other ministers and most of the Elf board were kept in the dark.

The project was shrouded in the highest secrecy, the report says. Those involved in it had the sense of dealing with something "that could change the fate of France, even of the world..." Exempted from blame is Mr. Alain Chandon, who took over as head of Elf in August 1977 and "seemed embarrassed by the situation he inherited."

For the Socialists and Communists, the "oil sniffers" affair has come like manna from heaven, offsetting some of the gloom of a stagnant economy and rising unemployment. There is little doubt they will exploit it politically to the full. — Financial Times news feature.

مكة المكرمة

Taking better care of Jordan's natural beauty

By Reverend Musa Adeli

*'I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree --
She who lifts her leafy arms to pray --
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree'*

thus writes the English poet. In June 1983 whilst in Europe I visited the Black Forest along with Dr. Vollmer, director of West German Caritas and a friend of mine. I shall not forget that visit. We started out by car and went as far as a road-side notice advising that all motor vehicles beyond that point were forbidden. A little further on there was a second notice -- bicycles forbidden. The message was clear 'You are entering nature's realm, therefore enter in the way of nature, on foot.'

During our walk of about 10 miles I noticed that everything was perfectly clean, sweet-smelling and beautiful. I asked my companion if there were ever fires which destroyed the trees. In my mind I was sure he would say that there were often blazes caused by dropped cigarette ends or the remnants of smouldering fires left by picnickers. Instead he said that there were sometimes fires caused by lightning, but even these were becoming less frequent because lightning conductors had been installed to deflect the lightning and thus protect the trees. Still thinking that some fires must surely be caused by carelessness I said: 'And that is all?' and he replied: 'yes, that is all.'

Back in Jordan I went with some students to visit Dibben Forest and I really felt proud that this beautiful place is in our country. It came to my mind that before the Ottoman Empire, Jordan had been a heavily forested area and it was heartening to see such re-forestation taking place. I noticed with a real sense of gratification that the smell from the trees, flowers and shrubs in Dibben Forest was altogether sweeter and more fragrant than that of the Black Forest. I imagine this is due to the deep penetration of the sun.

But ... my disappointment was real when I noticed the many broken branches, uprooted and discarded flowers and shrubs, scorched trees, holds where entire trees had been pulled out, and worst of all, all the ugly litter left behind by careless picnickers. As I looked at this, a few verses from the Prophet Isaiah flitted through my mind:

*'It has been made a wilderness, stripped of its branches,
And when its boughs are dry they are broken, and women come
and make fire of them. This is a people
without discernment'*
Human nature it seems does not

change though it is doubtful if we can still blame only the women for what we witness today! Some time ago I heard an amusing though very telling anecdote which seems to have a point we could well consider. A stranger was walking along a street in Moscow and absent-mindedly threw away an empty cigarette packet. Immediately a young woman picked it up and smilingly returned it to the gentleman and said: 'I think this is yours sir.' 'Thank you', he said somewhat taken aback, 'but I don't really want it.' The young lady smiled even more sweetly and replied 'sir, neither do we.'

The forest belongs to us all, we are very proud of it, we want to enjoy it, to exhibit it to our families, our friends, our visitors and even to ourselves and maybe this gives us the right -- or even the duty -- to say to litter-throwsers: 'If you don't want it -- neither do we.' Of course what one advocates will never be taken up by everyone, there will always be a few who will not respond and because of this maybe we need to think of some sort of scheme to keep not only the forest but the whole country clean and undamaged.

Jordan has done much in recent times and we are justly proud. Roads, buildings and various improved services. As a people we are known for our warm hospitality. These and many other things are our pluses, but they should not make us complacent about our negatives. We have a country which was wrested with great difficulty from the desert. A desert which will creep back again if it finds us off our guard allowing conditions conducive to its return. Trees, shrubs and foliage of all kinds prevent soil erosion just as they prevent the encroachment of the desert.

Growth encourages birds, insects, and the smaller species of wildlife, all of which, quite apart from their beauty, are instrumental in improving the environment by cross-pollination and soil changes. Most of us are well aware of the problem faced in some of the South American countries today where drastic tree cutting took place to provide space for roads and towns. Even the rainfall is said to have been affected. So even from a practical point of view our land should be, not only allowed but encouraged to produce and contain what is natural to it.

However this point is not the only valid one. Man is both body and spirit and for him to be tied to material values only, enervates and reduces him. In my appraisal of things around me my only questions are -- can I eat it? wear it?

build with it? burn it? use it? destroy it? then I have not yet come very far along the road of full human and personal development. Nature contains many messages for me which I need to hear. The earth, fruitful Mother Earth with her myriad offerings, is God's tapestry, his painting, the work of his hand. In nature I can glimpse something of his unpeakable beauty, steadfastness, his faithfulness, love and permanence. The tree, that beautiful symbol of life is a true mark of endurance in a world which is becoming increasingly more transitory. Do we not need sometimes to gaze on something which has endured the onslaught of years and can still in deep silence, tranquillity and beauty come into leaf again and again? Is there not a message here we all need? I think there is.

Many years ago when I was a young boy growing up in Fuhaise I used to see my father go every day to see the growth and progress of a tree which he had planted. My father loved that tree and it responded to his care. This year, my father, now advancing in years, told me how sad he feels that the rains have not come. What will become of the trees? Trees to those with peasant hearts are as sons and daughters and we can be happy that even in these highly technical days we can still find those with that depth of soul, which cause them to respond to the feel of soil running through their fingers; those who find such happiness in the new growth of flowers, plants and trees. These things speak to them of values higher than what shall I wear? what shall I eat?

In our world of today we have so many slogans which are meant to spur us to greater effort. We have the 'Year of this', the 'Year of That', the 'Year of Something Else'. Why not the 'Year of the Tree' during which an all-out campaign could be waged to encourage the planting and nurturing of and an end to their destruction. Several ideas come to mind.

(a) Why do we not organise trips for students and maybe National Servicemen to plant trees and to clean the forest?

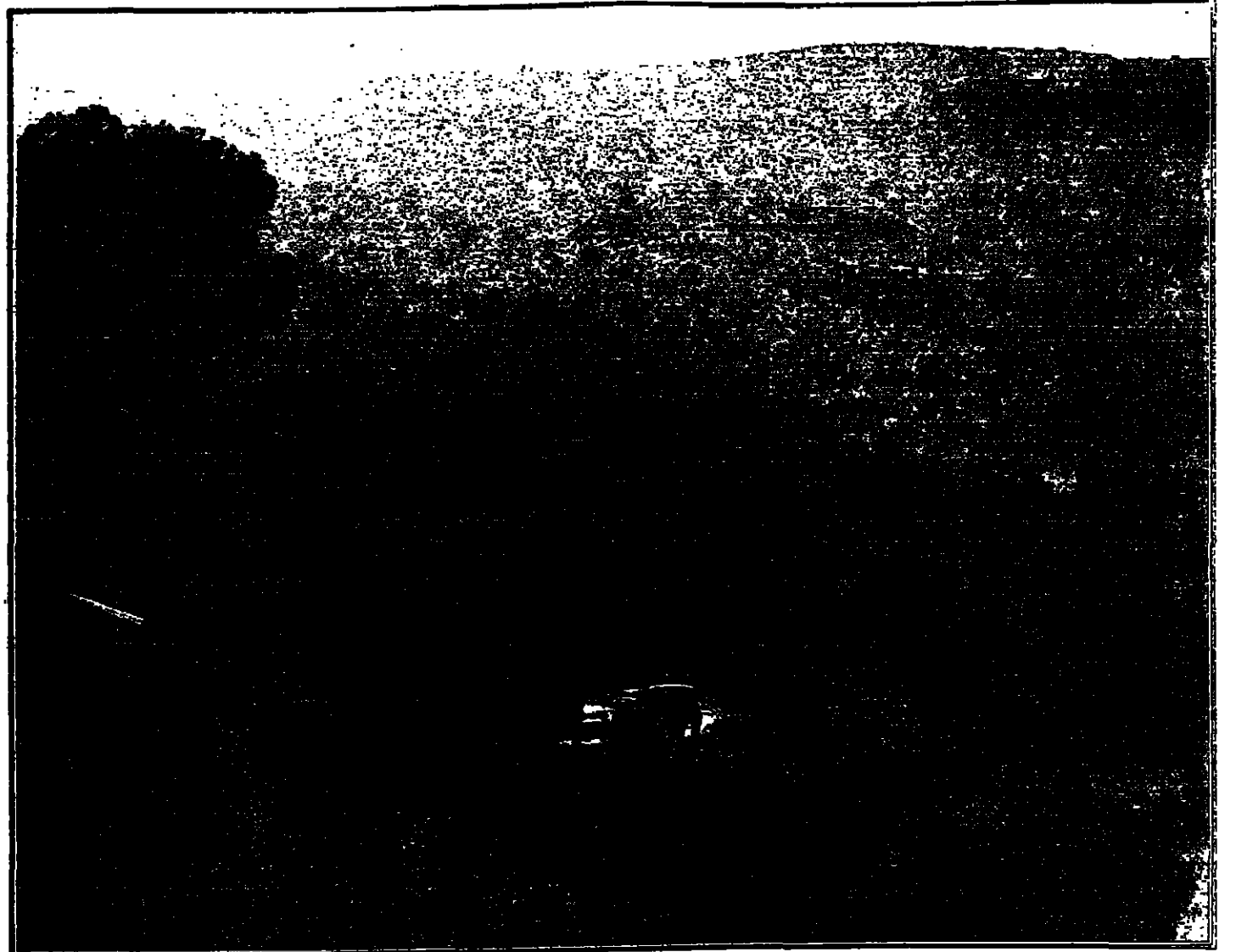
(b) What about a whole programme introduced into schools to teach children from an early age some appreciation of trees and other plants and flowers?

(c) Could those departments concerned with tourism, the environment and agriculture perhaps organise what is necessary to save the trees, to keep the forest clean; to provide places for picnics where there would be water, a fire-grill, toilets, benches and litter bins?

(d) Could some effort be made to stop people cutting down promising young trees to use as Christmas trees in their homes? In spite of what many say, the tree is not at the heart of our Christmas symbolism. It is only in comparatively recent times that trees have been used in the home at Christmas. If however the symbolism means so much to us could we then not make do with an artificial tree and avoid the annual culling which deposits our countryside year after year?

The above are my suggestion. I would be very interested to hear the views and suggestions of other readers on this whole subject.

As a concluding remark I would like to draw readers' attention to the really beautiful calendar produced by the Economic Press this year. On the front is a charming picture of the King and Queen and inside each page is a study of some aspect of nature here in Jordan. Even if we do not need a calendar for its functional use, we could all do with this calendar for the sheer beauty of its pictures. Who knows, but that by the time we have looked on these pictures in our homes for the coming 12 months we may come to view very differently the treasures of nature we have here in our beautiful country.



"I went... to visit Dibbin Forest and I really felt proud that this beautiful place is in our country."

Conservation tillage: Effective solution to soil erosion

WASHINGTON -- Conservation tillage is fast becoming one of the most effective solutions to the problem of soil erosion on cropland.

Presently, the erosion rates are high enough on cropland throughout the world to threaten long-term productivity.

To help reduce this serious soil loss, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, universities and industry are constantly seeking new ways to help farmers develop and apply affordable conservation practices. Of these, conservation tillage has developed into the fastest-growing farming system in history.

Through conservation tillage, farmers can greatly reduce the number of times they need to work the land. They can reduce or even eliminate plowing, disking, harrowing and cultivating to control weeds. In conservation tillage systems, weeds and insects can be controlled by herbicides and insecticides.

As a result, the new crop is planted directly in the residue of the previous crop. That residue protects the soil from wind and water erosion and acts as a mulch to retain moisture.

There are various conservation tillage systems -- till-plant, ridge planting, and no-till, to name a few. They all share a common aim to save soil, fuel and labour. Of all the conservation tillage systems, no-till disturbs the land the least and leaves the most residue on the soil surface.

In 1972, fewer than 12 million hectares of U.S. cropland were under conservation tillage. Some 10 years later, that figure topped 40 million hectares -- or about one-fourth of all cropland.

On most soils, conservation tillage is by far the most cost-effective approach to reducing soil erosion. In the state of Missouri, for example, conventional tillage, which leaves the field clean and bare, results in average annual erosion of more than 90 tons of soil per hectare. By switching to no-till, the most effective conservation tillage system for his or her land, the farmer could reduce erosion loss to 30 tons per hectare. Agriculture officials estimate that by 2010, more than half of all U.S. cropland planted will be under no-till, and 95 per cent will be in some form of conservation tillage. U.S.A.



Conservation tillage is effectively used by Iowa farmer where corn has been planted directly in the residue of the previous wheat crop. The wheat stubble protects the soil from wind and water erosion and acts as a mulch to retain moisture. As a result, farmers save soil, fuel and labour (Photo from Press and Publications Service).

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Lendl, Connors to meet in Masters semi-finals

NEW YORK (R) — Defending champion Ivan Lendl, benefitting from an injury to Andres Gomez of Ecuador, required only nine games to gain the semi-finals of the \$400,000 Masters Tennis Tournament Friday night.

Left-handed Gomez was forced to retire because of an injury to his left shoulder after dropping the first set, 6-2, and losing the opening game of the second set.

Lendl's victory earned him a berth against Jimmy Connors in the semi-finals for the second straight year. Connors, routed by Lendl, 6-3, 6-1, last year, advanced Friday afternoon when he beat Tomas Smid of Czechoslovakia, 6-4, 2-6, 6-2.

Top-seeded Mats Wilander of Sweden faces third seed John McEnroe in the opening semi-final match on Saturday.

The 23-year-old Gomez, who upset Lendl in the semi-finals of the Challenge of Champions exhibition in Chicago last Saturday, injured his shoulder late in the first set when he lost his serve for the second time in the seventh game.

The 6-foot 5-inch (1.95 metre) Ecuadorian said that a long-standing tendinitis problem began to affect him in the third game when he dropped his serve after saving five breakpoints.

Despite the pain, Gomez managed to hold serve at 30 in the fifth game. But by the seventh game he was unable to put any power into his big serve.

After falling behind, love-40, while trailing, 2-4, he hit two soft serves, which prompted boos from the Madison Square Garden crowd of about 15,000.

In the first game of the second set, it became clear that Gomez had lost all effectiveness on his service. He again fell behind on service, love-40, on two errors and a backhand crosscourt winner by Lendl. Then he double-faulted with two soft serves.

At the changeover, Gomez told umpire Frank Hammond he was retiring because of the shoulder injury.

Apart from a second-set lapse, when he dropped his service three times, the 31-year-old Connors was in complete control against Smid who had upset Yannick Noah of France in the first round Wednesday night.

Connors, ranked fourth and eager to regain the number-one spot, put unrelenting pressure on the 27-year-old Smid in the first and third sets before a crowd of 10,241.

Five unforced errors by Smid produced the only service break in the opening set, after which Connors saved four breakpoints before holding serve for the set in the fifth game.

Connors dropped the second set as a result of service breaks in the second, sixth and eighth games. But then he went ahead, 4-1, by breaking Smid's service at love in the opening game of the third set and at 15 in the fifth game as the Czechoslovak erred repeatedly with his forehand.

Smid broke back to draw to 2-4, but then Connors broke again at 15 and held serve at love to close out the match.

Connors said later he was still bothered by bone spurs on two toes of his right foot, but was reluctant to undergo surgery.

"It's only going to get better if I have it operated on, but then I'd be out for quite a while," he said. "But it only bothers me on courts that don't give, and this one does."

The victory was Connors' sixth over Smid with the loss of only three sets.

Though he won four of 14 tou-

rnaments he played in last year, Connors has not captured a tournament since winning his fifth U.S. Open title last September. In his three events since then, he was beaten by Sandy Mayer, relatively unknown Scott Davis and by McEnroe before winning an exhibition tournament in Chicago last Sunday.

And, like McEnroe, he has not done particularly well in the Masters, since winning the event in 1978. Connors, who has a 17-12 record in the tournament, which climaxes the previous year's Grand Prix circuit, has not reached the final since winning the tournament. And last year he was routed, 6-3, 6-1, by Lendl in the semi-finals.

Like McEnroe, too, he would prefer to have the tournament played in December and perhaps have the field expanded from 12 players.

"For me, it's like a three-day event," he said. "I've been hanging around all week waiting to play. I'd much rather have played on Wednesday, and then come back and play today."

Connors also said that the Masters might be the last major tournament in which he uses his Wilson T-2000 metal racket, with which he has won 100 singles titles, more than any other player in the open era.

Connors has been experimenting with a midsize graphite racket, but said it might be several months before it is developed to the point where he can use it in tournament competition.

"It might add a couple more years to my career," he said.

Smid, the workhorse of the men's circuit, who played in 31 tournaments last year — more than anyone else in the top-20, said he was unable to cope with Connors' onslaught in the final set.

"He played very well in the last set," said Smid, best known as one of the world's foremost doubles players. "He played too good for me."

Wolves stuns Liverpool

LONDON (R) — Nineteen-year-old reserve striker Steve Mardenborough turned the English Soccer League upside down Saturday.

His ninth minute header gave bottom-placed Wolverhampton a shock 1-0 away win over first division leaders Liverpool — their first triumph at Anfield for 33 years.

The defeat cost the champions a chance of opening a five-point advantage at the top. They remained two ahead of Manchester United, who drew 1-1 at Queen's Park Rangers Friday night.

West Ham stayed third despite a 3-0 defeat at Birmingham, another club languishing near the foot of the division.

Nottingham Forest and Southampton, fourth and fifth respectively, had their clash washed

out but Coventry lost their chance of leap-frogging over them by suffering a 2-1 home defeat to Watford.

Wolves certainly produced one of the biggest upsets of the season, defying sustained pressure by Liverpool and near-gale conditions. Mardenborough, who replaced injured Mel Eves, stunned his pedigree rivals by heading home his first goal for Wolves from a Danny Crainie cross.

It was Liverpool's fourth defeat of the season — only Sunderland have beaten them at Anfield — while Wolves can be doubly proud because they held them 1-1 at home.

Birmingham, without a home win since October 1, gave West Ham goalkeeper Phil Parkes nothing to celebrate on his 600th League appearance.

Connors in Davis Cup for first time since '81

NEW YORK (R) — Jimmy Connors will join John McEnroe and Peter Fleming to represent the United States in its opening Davis Cup match against Romania in Bucharest February 24-26. The U.S. Tennis Association said Saturday.

It will be the first time since 1981 that Connors has played in the Davis Cup and only the second time since 1976.

In the past, Connors has declined to play Davis Cup, in part because of differences with former U.S. captains Dennis Ralston and

Tony Trabert. Arthur Ashe is the current U.S. coach.

Asked during the Grand Prix Masters tournament why he decided to return to Davis Cup play, Connors said: "I just woke up one day and decided to play."

Connors, who has committed to play in all of the U.S. matches, said that arrangements for him to play were worked out between a "mutual friend" and Ashe.

Connors, who has a 5-1 record in Davis Cup play, won two singles matches during the U.S. victory over Czechoslovakia in 1981.

Mandlikova upsets Jaeger

OAKLAND, California (R) — Hana Mandlikova upset second-seeded Andrea Jaeger, 7-6, 6-4, and top seeded Martina Navratilova stretched her consecutive winning streak to 53 matches in the quarter finals of a \$150,000 women's tennis tournament Friday night.

Mandlikova, the talented but erratic 21-year-old from Czechoslovakia, is seeded eighth in the tournament.

Navratilova, of the U.S., beat Zina Garrison (U.S.), 6-1, 6-1.

In earlier matches, third-seeded Pam Shriver (U.S.) swept past fifth-seeded Bettina Bunge (Monte Carlo) 6-3, 6-2, and Helena Sukova (Czechoslovakia) beat Eva Pfaff (West Germany), 6-3, 6-4.

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Pakistan collapses against West Indies pace bowlers

BRISBANE (R) — The West Indies, out to avenge a humiliating defeat by Pakistan in the one-day World Series Cricket Cup, had their opponents floundering at 174 for nine wickets in the allotted 50 overs on Saturday.

Pakistan's batsmen collapsed against superb fast bowling by Wayne Daniel and Michael Holding, losing eight wickets for 63 runs after a good start.

West Indies seemed to be missing their injured pacer Joel Garner and Malcolm Marshall as Pakistan opener Mudassar Nazar and Mansoor Akhtar scored easily after losing Mohsin Khan to Daniel with only 10 runs on the board.

But West Indies got a vital breakthrough when spinner Viv Richards bowled Mansoor for 32 with the score on 97.

Javed Miandad was next to go 24 runs later, run out by Gus Logie who threw down the wicket when Mudassar called for a quick single.

Richards, keeping a steady line and length, struck again with the

score on 124 when Mudassar gave him an easy caught and bowled.

West Indies captain Clive Lloyd, who sent the Pakistanis in to bat on a moist, grassy wicket, brought back his strike attack of Holding and Daniel and they proceeded to mop up the wickets.

Captain Imran Khan went cheaply, flashing at Holding outside the off stump. He was quickly followed by Sarfaraz Nawaz caught easily by Desmond Haynes off Holding.

Qasim Omar, 69-run hero of Pakistan's victory in Melbourne on Thursday, took the score along to 157 before Daniel struck again.

Daniel finished with figures of three for 27 while Holding took three for 46 and both got good support from Richards, whose 10 overs for two wickets cost an economical 35 runs.

The Pakistanis, equal on two points with the Australians and the West Indians after two games played by each team, were restricted to a run rate of 3.53 an over.

Olympic champion clears starting height to win

OTTAWA (R) — Olympic Champion Wladyslaw Kozakiewicz of Poland won the pole vault at Friday night's Ottawa games, opening meeting of the North American indoor track-and-field season, by clearing the starting height of 5.41 metres.

American Billy Olson, who set three world best marks last year including 5.80 metres, failed with three tries at 5.51 metres while Kozakiewicz's compatriot, Tadusz Slusarski, the 1976 Olympic champion, was among those who could not cope with the initial height.

The meeting included two incident-packed 800-metre races. In the men's race, Peter Lemashon of Kenya fell on the first lap and caused favoured American James Robinson to hurdle his sprained body.

Robinson finished third behind Edwin Koech of Kenya, who won in 1:54.0, and Ian Newhouse of Canada.

Jane Finch of Britain won the women's 800 metres in 2:05.3 ahead of her sister Teena Colbrook and American Robin Campbell, who bumped and pushed their way down the finishing straight. Colbrook was placed second in 2:06.2 but Campbell was disqualified by the judges.

Christine Whiteside of Canada pulled off a mild upset by winning the women's 1,500 metres in the relatively slow time of 4:29.9. She ran clear with three laps left to win comfortably from Linda Detlefsen of the United States.

American Louise Ritter won the women's high jump with a leap of 1.96 metres from Debbie Brill of Canada and Dina Gisladoth of Iceland, who both cleared 1.88 metres.

Other winners included Mike Otley of Canada, who took the men's high jump with 2.24 metres, American Tom Byers, first in the men's mile in 4:05.9, and Doug Padilla of the United States, who recorded 8:46.6 in winning the men's 3,000 metres.

Lattany beaten by schoolboy

COSFORD, England (R) — English schoolboy Ade Mafe took the formidable scalp of Mel Lattany, one of the world's top sprinters, on his way to breaking the British 200 metres indoor record here Friday night.

The 17-year-old Mafe outpaced the American in the semifinals of the 200 metres at the British Indoor Championships to win in 21.28 seconds.

Lattany was edged into third place behind Mafe and Linford Christie but qualified for the final by being the fastest loser.

He said: "No excuses — the kid ran a great race. But I shall make him pay in the final."

Hooper, Saltz in Auckland final

AUCKLAND (R) — Americans Chip Hooper and Dan Saltz fought their way through to the final of the Auckland Grand Prix Tennis Championships Saturday with straight-set semi-final wins.

Saltz, a 22-year-old Californian who had to qualify for a place in the tournament, beat fifth-seeded Australian Brad Drewett 7-6 (9-7), 7-6 (7-3) in 2hr 1min, while Hooper, the second seed, powered past seventh-seeded Larry Stefanki (U.S.) 6-4, 6-3 in just 59min.

Racing teams test Formula One cars

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Most of the world's Formula One teams have flown their cars to Rio for week-long tyre tests before the first 1984 World Championship race, the Brazilian Grand Prix at the Jacarepagua track here on March 25.

The tests are also expected to determine the future of Brazil's former World Champion Emerson Fittipaldi who is considering a Formula One comeback after a three-year absence.

IOC president confident Soviets will compete in Los Angeles Olympic Games

VIENNA (R) — Juan Samaranch, President of the International Olympic Committee, again said he was confident the Soviet Union would not boycott next summer's Los Angeles Games.

Samaranch told a press conference in Vienna Friday: "If the United States fully respect the Olympic Charter, and I am sure they will, the Soviet Union will take part in Los Angeles."

He said there were a number of indications that the Soviet Union was not going to stage a boycott in retaliation for a U.S.-led multinational boycott of the 1980 games in Moscow.

These included intensive preparations already begun by the Soviet Olympic Committee, a recent visit by a senior Soviet delegation in California and personal assurances to Samaranch by the Soviet minister for sports.

Turning to the question of amateurism, Samaranch said the Olympics were open for all sportsmen and women except professionals — "and that means those who make their living exclusively through their sport" — or those who do not belong to a federation.

Two top Alpine skiers, slalom specialists Ingemar Stenmark and Hanni Wenzel, have been barred from the winter Olympics in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, for technically infringing their amateur status.

Samaranch said he believed the number of participants at the Olympics had reached a limit. Including any new discipline could mean excluding another, he said.

New drugs pose problems for dope testers

By Peter Conrad
Reuter

LONDON — Hormones extracted from the urine of pregnant women and the pituitary glands of human corpses are among the latest drugs used by athletes in the hope of improving their performance.

As sports authorities have moved to control and ban the use of anabolic steroids and testosterone, both widely used as performance-enhancing drugs, so athletes have looked for alternative ways of getting an extra boost in the battle for records and medals.

According to professor Arnold Beckett, a leading doping expert at London University, they have chosen two drugs in particular: Human Chorionic Gonadotrophin (HCG), and a growth hormone, known as Somatotropin or STH.

Neither has yet been banned by international sports authorities, but Beckett said research into their effects and their detection is currently underway.

Of the two drugs, most media attention has so far been concentrated on the growth hormone. Taken from the pituitary glands of cadavers, it is more normally prescribed by doctors to children suffering from dwarfism, or growth

deficiency. Athletes injecting the drug claim it increases muscle bulk and strengthens bones.

The second, HCG, derived from the urine of pregnant women, is used with the aim of stimulating the natural production of the male hormone testosterone. This, in turn, is said to produce better muscle development and to work on the central nervous system to make the athlete more aggressive and more competitive and to allow harder training.

With the direct injection of testosterone to be banned at this year's Olympics in Los Angeles, doctors say HCG could give athletes the same boost indirectly and so help them avoid the risk of disqualification.

Any move against the drugs by sports authorities necessarily requires the development of tests to detect when they have been used. But while Canadian team doctor Jack Taunton has said traces of anabolic steroids can be picked up in the body up to 90 days after athletes have stopped injecting them, both growth hormone and HCG present more problems.

The drugs are detectable in blood plasma, but trackside dope testers are forced to work with urine samples, which complicates their job, particularly in the case

of growth hormone which is absorbed so quickly into the system that it could prove impossible to spot only hours after athletes stop taking it.

But it is precisely this rapid absorption that has made some experts question whether either drug offers the athlete anything more than a catalogue of unpleasant side effects: Oversized hands and feet in the case of growth hormone, and a lower sperm count, liver damage and possible jaundice in the case of excessive testosterone.

The chairman of the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) medical council, Prince Alexandre Merode, said recently it was possible growth hormone was destroyed so quickly by the body's metabolic process that it was unlikely to help performance.

Professor Beckett was more cautious. Although surprised that growth hormone should be taken as a performance-booster at all, he was unwilling to write it off.

"The difficulty is that you're talking about normal conditions. It's the same argument that used to come for anabolic steroids. A lot of medical people said anabolic steroids would not do anything in sport, but they were talking about normal doses, they weren't talking about massive doses, and it has been demonstrated by results that anabolic steroids did produce advantages."

Fewer doubts surround HCG, although the fact that the drug works by stimulating the body's own production of testosterone means it is usable only by male athletes and is unlikely to be as

effective as direct injection, he added.

Yet however inconclusive the scientific evidence, it appears many sportsmen, particularly in the United States, are using both drugs in the hope of improving their performance.

Beckett said he first started hearing about the widespread use of both last year, although an American doctor recently announced that he had been prescribing growth hormone to hundreds of athletes in the United States for over three years.

According to a report in the British Sunday Times last week, the increased demand has caused the market price of the drug to rocket in the U.S., putting it beyond the reach of many of its estimated 2,500 child dwarf users.

Since neither drug has yet been banned by the sports authorities, there have been no objective tests on how widespread their use is.

"But if the information that we are getting from doctors and coaches and competitors is right, and I've got no reason to believe that it's wrong, there's a fairly widespread misuse," Beckett said.

The apparent interest being shown in HCG and growth hormone is undoubtedly the result of a harder line being taken on other drugs. Both testosterone and anabolic steroids will be tested for at Los Angeles, along with a number of banned stimulants, which now are to include caffeine.

"It's undoubtedly an attempt to circumvent the anabolic steroid and testosterone tests, there's no doubt about it," Beckett said.

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Japan nearly trebled trade surplus in 1983

TOKYO (R) — Japan nearly trebled its balance of payments surplus with the rest of the world in 1983, exporting goods worth a record \$20.45 billion more than it imported, the finance ministry said Friday.

The surplus, calculated from the flow of goods through customs points, dwarfed the previous record \$8.74 billion surplus in 1981 and \$6.90 billion in 1982.

Japan found eager buyers for its consumer goods, especially in the United States, its biggest market, and total exports rose nearly 6 per cent to \$146.93 billion.

Importing some 99 per cent of its oil, Japan also benefitted from last year's lower oil prices. Its oil bill for 1983 was about 13 per cent less than for 1982, helping reduce total imports by 4 per cent to \$126.48 billion.

Japan's trading partners, espe-

cially the U.S. and European Community, are up in arms at the successful export drive, saying it is eating away the heart of their industries, causing factory closure and unemployment.

In 1983 Japan had record trade surpluses of \$18.13 billion with the U.S. and \$10.41 billion with the European Community.

The export boom shows no signs of abating and helped push Japanese share prices to record levels this month.

The Tokyo market touched another record high Friday, with the index adding 46.81 to a closing 10,150.97 in a hectic market where 680 million shares changed hands.

During 1983 Japan moderated exports of a number of products, notably cars and video tape recorders, at the behest of the United States and Europe, but the finance

ministry's figures show exports of nearly 6 million vehicles last year, a 6 per cent increase in value terms.

Economists say the expected recovery in the world economy this year will increase demand for a whole range of Japanese products and the trade surplus could reach \$30 billion.

In trade talks this month and next the U.S. and Europe will demand that Japan import more agricultural products, but this will be opposed by Japan's politically powerful farmers.

Talks are also scheduled for February between the U.S. and Japan on the value of the yen, which the U.S. says is too weak.

The Japanese say the current yen price of 234.60 to the dollar merely reflects the strong dollar caused by domestic U.S. economic policies.

L. American states propose new debt plan

QUITO (R) — 27 Latin American nations have forged an agreement to press the industrial West for easier repayment of the region's crushing \$310 billion foreign debt and to provide better terms for new loans.

Ranging from communist Cuba to rightist-ruled Chile, the group Friday night signed documents demanding the West adopt their sweeping new guidelines to allow them to recover financially.

The agreements, struck during a 2-day meeting in Ecuador's capital, urged foreign creditors to convert much of the short-term debt into long-term credits.

They also pressed banks to slash

interest rates and commissions on new loans.

The group asked the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to ease austerity programmes tied to financial packages drawn last year by most Latin American nations to avert bankruptcy.

Ecuadorian President Osvaldo Hurtado told reporters he would send the documents — known as the "Quito declaration" and the

"action plan" — to industrial Western governments, the IMF and other international institutions.

He said he assumed they would pass the statements along to private foreign banks.

He said the documents might help economists from international banks to support Latin America's new position and urged them to pump loans into the region.

The head of Peru's delegation, Mr. Manuel Ulloa told reporters that the documents would solidify a Latin American front against the United States, whose banks own the biggest share of the region's debt.

"Within the Organisation of

American States (OAS), there will be a monolithic front against the other member, the United States," he said.

The United States last September agreed to join a special OAS panel to study Latin American debt problem and Mr. Ulloa was asked to form the commission. Mr. Ulloa told Reuters he planned to establish the group before the end of the month.

In an interview, Ecuadorian Vice-President Leon Roldos told Reuters he would develop the conference's call for ways to stretch out debt repayments.

Mr. Roldos said his proposal outline of how to turn debt into long-term bonds would be circulated next month throughout the region by the Latin American Economic System (SELA), one of the conference's organisers.

W. German GNP excel forecasts but still lagging

WIESBADEN, West Germany (R) — The West German recovery outstripped forecasts last year and is on course for higher growth in 1984, although still lagging well behind the pace of the strongest world economies.

The Federal Statistics Office Friday reported that 1983 Gross National Product (GNP), the sum of all goods and services produced, rose by 1.2 per cent after taking account of inflation, reversing 2 years of steady decline.

The provisional figure was at the upper end of the government's forecasts of a good 1 per cent growth, and statistics office senior economist Mr. Frank Dorow told reporters that estimates for 1984 growth of 2 to 2.5 per cent should

not be far off target.

However, he sounded a note of caution. "The recovery is not particularly marked when compared with the last time the economy sank deeply into recession," he said.

In 1975 GNP declined by 1.6 per cent but rebounded vigorously the next year by surging 5.6 per cent.

And the 1.2 per cent rise for 1983 is modest compared with estimates of 3.5 per cent in the United States and 3 per cent in Japan.

Last year's 1.2 per cent rise in GNP followed a fall in 1982 of 1.1 per cent and a slide of 0.3 per cent in 1981.

Mr. Dorow based his optimism for 1984 on a calculation showing

the West German economy grew at an annualised, seasonally adjusted rate of 3 per cent growth for 1984 when it unveils its new economic report in about 2 weeks.

But 2 major question marks hang over 1984. Firstly, much of the 1983 upswing came from increased consumer spending as savings were run down. West Germans saved only 11.7 per cent of their incomes last year, after 13 per cent in 1982.

Secondly, the recovery has been fuelled largely by the domestic economy and foreign trade has yet to play a major role. The dollar's surge against the German mark gives exports a competitive edge in the U.S. but is increasing import prices.

Indian experts predict difficult economic situation

NEW DELHI (R) — India's top economists have predicted the country's economy will continue to face difficulties in foodgrains and foreign exchange and asked the government to cut non-developmental expenses.

They made the prediction in a report almost 6 weeks before the national budget is due to be presented.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, whose government must call general elections by January next year, appointed the council of economists about a year ago to advise her amid concern at depressed economic growth caused mainly by drought and industrial recession.

The economy has picked up in the past year, but economic analysts said the council's reference to India's grinding poverty, growing unemployment, rising food prices and a critical balance of payments situation were likely to be explosive electoral issues.

The economists had a close-

door meeting with Mrs. Gandhi early last week and an official spokesman said the government would examine their report carefully.

The council, which included Reserve Bank of India Governor Manmohan Singh, said the economy was likely to suffer in the medium term from inadequate agricultural growth, a severe strain on foreign exchange reserves and lack of investment.

The government expects grain production, helped by good monsoon rains, to rise to over 142 million tonnes in the year up to June, compared to last year's drought-

hit 128 million tonnes.

But official reports admit farm productivity is unsatisfactory, forcing India to import large amounts of food.

The council said if farmers did not produce more a serious food crisis could overtake India and push up prices further.

It also said programmes to end poverty and unemployment should be given higher priority.

About 42 per cent of India's 700 million people live below the poverty line. Most of them are agricultural labourers and small farmers.

S. Arabia, Iraq sign trade accord

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia and Iraq Saturday signed a trade cooperation agreement in Riyadh, removing restrictions hindering development of bilateral trade, the official Saudi Press Agency reported. It said the agreement made it easier for the transfer of capital and the transportation of products between the two countries.

Turkey publishes new export incentives

ISTANBUL (R) — New export incentives went into effect Friday, including cuts in bureaucratic obstacles, tax exemptions and cuts in import restrictions.

The incentives, published in the government gazette Thursday are part of monetarist Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's programme for boosting the economy through increased free market activity.

They follow sweeping moves taken since Mr. Ozal took power last month to liberalise previously

highly restrictive import and foreign currency regulations.

The latest decree simplifies bureaucratic procedures for exporters by repealing 9 previous decrees covering exports which ran to several hundred pages and replacing them with just 7 pages of rules and regulations.

Under the new rules, exporters will file documents to the government on imports they have bought to help make their export goods once a year instead of after each purchase as before.

All duties previously levied by the government for documentary procedures have been annulled. Guarantees charged by banks on exporters for export credits were cut by the decree to 2 per cent of the credit amount from 18 per cent.

Among tax incentives was a provision for companies exporting through Turkish transport firms to offset all their freight costs against tax, compared with 60 per cent of the costs before.

Export companies may also import goods they require for their export products with their own cash resources without permission previously needed from the government.

But the decree favoured big export companies over smaller firms by offering bigger incentives to the larger companies.

For example, companies exporting more than \$30 million worth of exports per year may also use 50 per cent of their export earnings in finance imports and will have access to more export credits.

The decree required so-called "export capital firms" — firms engaged solely in exporting — to raise their minimum capital by the end of 1985 at the latest to 500 million lira (\$1.6 million) from the present \$50 million lira (\$160,000).

These firms are also required to achieve a minimum of \$30 million worth of exports per year and increase their exports by 10 per cent per year in order to qualify for incentives available to "export capital firms."

In addition, the decree requires that 75 per cent of these com-

panies' exports be industrial goods and metallic and non-metallic raw materials.

Government sources said the decision to place emphasis on big export companies stemmed from a desire to achieve a more effective export drive through well-organised firms rather than through smaller, less well-equipped companies.

The government's export target for this year is \$7.5 billion. In the first 10 months of 1983, exports reached \$4.4 billion, making it unlikely that the 1983 overall target of \$6.2 billion would be reached.

At present, main export goods are tobacco, nuts, cotton, manufactured textiles, raw materials and semi-finished products.

Meanwhile, The Turkish central bank Friday lowered its buy-

ing and selling rates for the Turkish lira against the dollar by 4.9 per cent and 4.5 per cent respectively, bringing them into line with rates offered by commercial banks, a bank announcement said.

The bank said its buying rate for the dollar was set at 307.22 lira compared with 292.15 Thursday, while the selling rate was 311.52 against 297.30 Thursday.

The rates apply to public sector foreign exchange transactions and bilateral trade agreements and are given to commercial banks for the 20 per cent of their foreign exchange holdings they are required to sell to the central bank.

THE BETTER HALF By Harris

"I have a theory on Stanley's baldness. The hair was embarrassed to be seen on a body like his and it flew the coop!"

Peanuts

I TOLD YOU I'M THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL CACTUS CLUB, DIDN'T I?

I'M ALSO THE PROGRAM CHAIRMAN, TREASURER AND VICE PRESIDENT

ACTUALLY, I'M THE ONLY MEMBER...

Mutt 'n' Jeff

MUTT, MY FRIEND, MR. JINKS, WANTS TO BORROW \$100 FOR A WEEK — HE'LL PAY US \$25 INTEREST!

AS SECURITY, HERE'S THE DEED TO MY HOUSE AT 32 ELM STREET!

I CAN'T FIND MR. JINKS NO PLACE!

WELL, LET'S GO CLAIM HIS HOUSE!

Andy Capp

WHY DIDN'T YOU BRING THAT WASHING IN, YOU LAZY LITTLE DEVIL? IT'S BEEN RAINING ALL AFTERNOON!

NAG, NAG...

IT WASN'T RAINING WHEN I CAME BACK AT LUNCH TIME — I HAVEN'T BEEN OUT SINCE THEN

COULDN'T YOU SEE THROUGH THE WINDOW?!

I HAD MY BACK TO IT, DIDN'T I?

OH, WELL...

THE Daily Crossword by Louis Santrey

ACROSS

- 1 Laundry
- 9 Adure
- 12 Hollywood's Chase
- 13 Playground item
- 14 Peter at the piano
- 15 Former west
- 17 Melange
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- 21 Call — day
- 22 Rich cake
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DOWN

- 31 Celebes oxen
- 32 "The Time Machine" author
- 34 Treat hide
- 35 Vois state: abbr.
- 36 Did lawn work
- 37 Social meeting
- 38 Rich or poor end
- 39 Diamond sacks
- 40 Pro — (properly)
- 41 Garvey and Cauthen
- 43 Precluded
- 45 "— Triste"

16 Joyce Carol —

20 Makes angry

23 Aversions

24 "— of robins..."

25 "Orfeo" composer

26 Pairs

27 Used needle style

28 "Wonderland" sign obeyed by Alice

30 Sam of golf

33 — majeste

36 "Manon" composer

37 Las Brown singer

39 Telephone man

40 "Ballade" composer

42 Valleys

44 Encourage

46 Watery swelling

48 Arrest

49 Marco — woman

50 Joyousness

51 Nathan — spy

52 Religious figure

53 Ex-Washington players

56 Gremlin

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved.

Honduras seeks OAS meeting to discuss downing of helicopter

By Matthew Campbell

TEGUCIGALPA (R)—The Honduran Foreign Ministry called Friday for a meeting of the Organisation of American States (OAS) to discuss Nicaragua's downing of a U.S. helicopter and the death of its American pilot.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman called the incident "a grave threat to the peace and security of the region" and said Honduras had sent protests to both the OAS and the United Nations. The announcement was made after diplomatic sources said Honduras and Nicaragua had temporarily recalled their ambassadors, further straining relations.

Nicaragua issued a statement Thursday acknowledging that its troops downed the helicopter on Wednesday and killed the pilot. It said that the helicopter violated Nicaraguan airspace, flying over Sandinista army positions in an area torn by heavy fighting between the Nicaraguan government and right-wing guerrillas supported by the United States.

The incident occurred only four days after the two countries' foreign ministers agreed on a Contadora document calling for an end to border hostilities.

Residents contradict

CIFUENTES, Honduras (R)—An American helicopter whose pilot was killed by Nicaraguan gunfire close to the border on Wednesday was travelling in the opposite direction to what a U.S. spokesman said was his official course, residents here said. Border tensions were heightened further as Honduran and Nicaraguan troops exchanged fire here Thursday only hours before U.S. soldiers prepared to remove the helicopter from this Honduran village.

A U.S. embassy spokesman said the helicopter had strayed in strong winds from 20 to 25 miles off its eastward flight path.

He added: "If it had crossed into Nicaragua, it was just slightly." But an eyewitness said it had been flying west down the border at a low altitude on a calm and windless day from the direction of Las Trojes, another hamlet further down the road.

Jose Espinal, a 22-year-old Honduran coffee picker said the helicopter had been downed by "several blasts" of gunfire from Nicaraguan side of the border.

Mr. Espinal said by the time he had arrived at the spot the pilot had already been killed.

Two other villagers confirmed Mr. Espinal's story. Army pilot Jeffrey Schwab was the first U.S. military man to die in hostilities along the Honduras-Nicaragua border.

Ershad may present Iran's views at summit

DHAKA (R)—Bangladesh President Hossain Mohammad Ershad hinted Saturday he might present Iran's viewpoints to a major conference of Islamic heads of state and governments beginning in Morocco on Monday.

"We may uphold their interests at the conference because we are fully up to date with their views," Gen. Ershad told reporters before leaving for Casablanca.

Last month, after heated debate in an all-night session, Iran's For-

eign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati walked out of an Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference at Dhaka to block a peace proposal which he said favoured Iraq in its war with Iran.

Gen. Ershad said the four-year conflict between the two Muslim nations would be one of the issues at the Casablanca Islamic Summit.

He said he had a meeting last week with a special Iranian envoy, Javed Masoumi, who briefed him

on Tehran's policy towards ending the war. But he did not spell out details.

Another major issue at the conference will be a concerted Islamic move to end the continued Soviet military presence in Afghanistan, Gen. Ershad said.

The summit will also choose a new secretary-general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to replace the incumbent, Habib Chatti of Tunisia.

Madrid studies reports on Basque guerrilla group

MADRID (R)—Spain's Socialist government is studying a report linking Basque separatist guerrillas with armed guerrilla groups from Latin America, Europe and Arab countries, Interior Ministry officials said Friday.

The report, details of which appeared in the newspaper El Pais, had been drawn up by Spanish and foreign security forces and was presented to the government about a week ago.

It linked the Basque Separatist Movement ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom) with the Irish

Republican Army (IRA), the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and leftist guerrillas from a number of Latin American countries.

ETA began formal contacts with other armed guerrilla groups at meetings held in Havana in 1966, the report said.

In 1983, an ETA commando arrived in El Salvador on a mission to kill the country's defence minister. The report gave no more details but said ETA had donated \$250,000 of kidnap ransom money to left-wing guerrillas.

Polish TV chief jailed for 8 years

WARSAW (R)—A former head of Polish television, Mieczyslaw Szczepanski, was jailed for eight years for corruption Friday after a trial where he said he was being punished for the misdeeds of former Communist Party chiefs.

A Warsaw court convicted him on 35 counts of bribery and embezzlement after a two-year hearing at which 200 witnesses described how Mr. Szczepanski used public money to pay for private aircraft, luxury homes and mistresses.

His deputy, Eugeniusz Patyk, was found guilty with him and sentenced to seven years. The two men, who said they would appeal, were also ordered to pay heavy fines and banned from holding public office for five years after their release.

Mr. Szczepanski, 55, is the most prominent former Communist to be sentenced since the Solidarity Trade Union upheaval in 1980 which swept away scores of party officials including leader Edward Gierek.

Mr. Szczepanski was denounced by union activists at the height of Solidarity's challenge to Communist power and stripped of his television job, his seat in parliament and membership of the Party Central Committee.

Judge Michal Kulczycki rejected Mr. Szczepanski's angry claims throughout the hearing that he was the victim of a political trial and a scapegoat for the crimes of more important men who escaped prosecution.

Argentine parliament urges exit ban on officials

BUENOS AIRES (R)—The lower house of Argentina's parliament has called on President Raul Alfonsin to ban former economic policy-makers from leaving the country while their conduct in office is investigated.

A Peronist opposition motion to this effect, which did not name any former officials, was passed unanimously.

The leader of the radical majority in the Lower House, Cesar Jansilovsky, said earlier this week that his group would demand a trial by the senate of former Economy Minister Jose Martinez de Hoz and his immediate aides for allegedly having led Argentina to economic ruin.

Parliamentary sources said a trial could result in a ban on these men holding public office in the future.

Mr. Martinez de Hoz, who was economy minister from 1976 to 1981.

Korean hotel fire kills 36, injures 80

SEOUL (R)—At least 36 people were killed and nearly 80 injured when fire swept through a 110-storey tourist hotel at the southeast Korean port city of Pusan Saturday, police said.

The death toll could rise, with some of the injured in serious condition in hospital, they added.

About 200 guests were trapped in the Daechi Hotel when the blaze broke out on the fourth floor. People screamed for help, waving clothes and handkerchiefs from every window from the fourth floor upwards as strong winds fanned the flames higher.

About 10 helicopters plucked scores of people from the roof and from windows to the cheers of thousands of onlookers.

But at least three people died and others were injured when they jumped from windows to escape the flames, eyewitnesses said. Some guests escaped down knotted sheets.

Strong winds, rush-hour traffic and difficult access to the hotel in a crowded residential district hampered rescue work by hundreds of police and troops and over 70 fire engines.

Police said they were questioning about 20 hotel employees to determine the cause of the three-hour blaze but they suspected a gas explosion and not arson.

Lieutenant-Colonel Song Won-Sok, who led troops fighting the fire, said the hotel was an inferno.

"It was hard for the helicopters to approach the building because of pall of smoke and the heat but I told them (the pilots) to fight like hell as if in a combat situation," Col. Song said.

Police and army rescuers leaped through flames into the building to search for survivors. They found heaps of bodies clutching each

others. Many victims were asphyxiated by poisonous gases from burning rugs and other chemical fibres and furniture.

Eyewitnesses said a woman crashed to her death when she lost hold of a rescue rope from a helicopter and a naked woman was seriously injured when she tumbled from a seventh-floor window to the adjacent building.

Some guests stripped naked and used their clothes to try to avoid choking to death on the smoke and gases, the witnesses said.

Police estimated property damage from the blaze at about \$400,000. It was the worst hotel fire in South Korea since 1974, when 55 people died in Daewang Hotel in Seoul.

On Christmas Day in 1971 a blaze in Seoul's Daewonkang Hotel killed 165 guests — one of the world's worst hotel fires.

Pro-Taiwanese protest against Zhao's visit

SAN FRANCISCO (R)—A group of Nationalist Chinese flags and chanting "Free China" and "Free Tibet", hundreds of pro-Taiwanese demonstrators Friday night protested in a Central City Square against the visit of Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang.

Barricades and lines of police with riot equipment or mounted on horses kept the noisy protesters at a distance from the hotel where Mr. Zhao arrived for a dinner given by California Governor George Deukmejian.

Mr. Zhao's limousine drew up at a side entrance beneath a large canopy erected for the occasion, and while the Chinese leader must have heard the demonstrators, he could not see them.

The protest by about 800 of the

city's large Chinese community, which is divided in its feelings towards Peking, was the sole faring note so far in his three-day visit here. He faced similar protests when he was in Washington this week.

Earlier Friday, the most senior Chinese leader to visit the United States in five years told a press conference Peking had not ruled out using force to bring about a reunion of Nationalist-ruled Taiwan with the mainland.

China has pledged to allow Taiwan to keep its economic and social system and its armed forces if it accepts reunification. But Taiwanese leaders have rejected the overtures.

Mr. Zhao at the news con-

ference dismissed suggestions that the United States could act as a mediator over the Taiwan problem, which is a key obstacle in the development of Peking-Washington links.

Mr. Zhao also visited the University of California at Berkeley where he met Chinese students and discussed methods of pest control using biological techniques.

In the afternoon he met California businessmen and encouraged them to expand trade with China.

Peking is keen to buy the advanced technological goods that California specialises in so as to boost its programme of modernisation.

Marcos urged to shed some powers

MANILA (R)—Leading members of the ruling party in the Philippines say they will urge President Ferdinand Marcos to give up some of his powers in the hope that this will head off opposition threats to boycott parliamentary elections in May.

Political Affairs Minister Leonardo Perez said he and other senior members of the New Society Movement (NSM) would ask Mr. Marcos to suspend his powers to

order indefinite detention and impose the death penalty for political offences. He would also be requested to restore the writ of habeas corpus.

Several opposition parties have threatened to boycott the elections unless Mr. Marcos completely divests himself of law-making powers and repeals decrees authorising him to order detentions and suspend the privilege of habeas corpus.

Mr. Perez was quoted in the Daily Express newspaper Saturday as saying people should be free of constraints in order to enter open debates before the elections.

His statement came a day after an influential group of businessmen declared they would join the opposition in calling for Mr. Marcos' resignation if he were unable or unwilling to lead the country out of its present crisis.

2 Americans charged with exporting sensitive technology

SAN FRANCISCO (R)—Two Americans, including one living in Switzerland, were accused Friday of illegally exporting sensitive high technology equipment which U.S. officials believe has been channelled to Eastern Bloc countries or their allies.

The equipment, some 30 items worth about \$170,000, included mini-laser range finders which have an obvious military value, U.S. Attorney Joseph Russonelli told a press conference.

Following a two-year in-

vestigation by Customs and Commerce Department officials, a federal grand jury in San Francisco Friday returned a 22-count indictment against Mildred Elizabeth McKee, 41, an exporter living in Redwood City in the so-called Silicon Valley, and Robert Jankow, 40, an American.

Mr. Russonelli said the equipment was listed as being shipped to West Germany and Switzerland, but he conceded: "We do not know who wound up with the material."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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BET TWICE ON BLACK

Both vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ 10 9 8 7
♥ 13
♦ A K 8 7 6 2
♣ J Q 3
EAST
♠ 10 7
♥ J 4 2
♦ K Q 10 6 2
♣ 9 8 7 5 4
SOUTH
♠ A K 9 5 4 2
♥ A K Q 6 3
♦ A
♣ 5

The bidding:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 ♥ Pass 4 ♥ Pass
4 NT Pass 5 ♦ Pass
7 ♠ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: King of ♠.

Don't put all your eggs in one basket. If you leave it somewhere, you may have to go without dinner.

North-South bid simply to a good grand slam. Note North's decision to raise hearts rather than rebid his six-card club suit. Once a good fit had been located, there was no point to wasting space with a club rebid.

West led the king of diamonds, taken by the ace. If trumps were 2-2 or if the jack were to drop, declarer would have no problems, so he started things off by cashing two high trumps. The break followed the probabilities and the knave did not appear.

Declarer now tried to set up spades with two ruffs. Unfortunately, East held only two spades and overruled for down one.

There was another chance that declarer had overlooked. Once trumps don't break, it costs declarer nothing to go after the other black suit — clubs — before tackling spades. He should cash the ace-king of that suit and, when both defenders follow, continue with a third round of that suit. He can come to no harm — if East ruffs, declarer simply overruffs and he can then ruff two spades for his contract. And if clubs don't break, declarer can then fall back on trying to set up spades.

As the cards lie, the clubs split and declarer has no more worries. He draws the last trump, gets to dummy with a spade ruff and sluffs his remaining spades on dummy's good clubs.

More than 30 hurt, 150 arrested in Hong Kong riots

HONG KONG (R)—Thousands of rioters rampaged through Hong Kong's Kowloon district, defying police guns, tear gas and batons in the worst orgy of looting and violence to hit the British colony since 1967.

Police said the situation was calm Saturday morning after several hours of violence in the Mongkok and Yau-mai areas near the Kowloon's "golden mile" tourist shopping paradise.

Officials said 34 people, including four policemen, were injured and 150 arrested.

Police Commissioner Roy Henry blamed the trouble on "unruly elements" taking advantage of a dispute between taxi drivers and the government.

The drivers had paralysed the colony's business and tourist areas for two days to protest against increases of up to 500 per cent in their licence fees. A clearly embarrassed government had already indicated it was set to climb down when the riots began shortly after dusk Friday night.

Hong Kong newspapers said youths posing as sympathisers of the taxi drivers were behind the rampage. They appeared from their accents to be recent arrivals from China, the paper said.

The disturbances began when a young man was arrested after th-

rowing a bicycle bell at a passing police car. Crowds then pelted a nearby police station with stones and bottles and gangs of young Chinese launched on a looting spree, ripping shutters from shops and starting fires.

At one point hundreds of people pushed a double-decker bus into the centre railings of Nathan Road and tried to set it ablaze. Police said there were more than 100 reports of arson, robbery and criminal damage.

As the violence spread, Mr. Henry broke into the late night television film "Roman Holiday" to appeal for calm.

"We are not going to tolerate this sort of thuggery," he said. The riots ended a day of fast-moving events in the taxi dispute.

More than 10,000 drivers were angry over a proposed increase of up to 500 per cent in licence and registration fees accompanied by a rise of only 17 per cent in fares.

The dispute had been largely defused when representatives of the colony's government-appointed legislative and executive councils told the drivers they would oppose the fee increases.

Acting Governor Sir Philip Haddon-Cave then went on television, at about the same time as

the trouble flared in Kowloon, and hinted at a government climb down. He said the increases were only proposals which still had to be accepted by the legislative council.

He said the council would consider the matter of Wednesday, a week ahead of schedule, and again hinted at a compromise.

"It surely must be clear to taxi operators that the proposed increase will be examined very carefully indeed before any final decision is reached in the legislative council," Sir Philip said.

The acting governor added that he had ordered the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club to cancel Saturday's race meeting at Sha Tin in the new territories. Roads in the area had been blocked by thousands of striking taxi drivers.

Sir Philip is the colony's top official in the absence of Governor Sir Edward Youde, now in London for talks with the British government on the negotiations with China over Hong Kong's future.

The taxi row and the riots have clearly embarrassed Hong Kong authorities, anxious not to be seen as showing signs of weakness as Britain and China prepare for the next round of negotiations in Peking on Jan. 25.

The taxi drivers added to the authorities' discomfort by taking

their dispute to the New China News Agency Friday.

Officials of the agency, whose head is Peking's chief representative here, urged the drivers to stay calm and make Hong Kong's prosperity and stability their chief consideration.

Scores of shops were looted in the rioting and police said losses could total millions of dollars.

Youngsters battered down the metal grilles protecting shop fronts and scooped up handfuls of jewellery and gold. Passersby joined in the melee, grabbing necklaces dropped on the pavement as the looters fled. One man emerged from a shop clutching gold watches.

It was the worst violence in Hong Kong since the Maoist riots of 1967 — which followed fare increases on cross-harbour ferry boats — and it dented the colony's reputation as a model of civic discipline.

As gangs of youths swarmed through the streets, people living in 20-storey blocks of flats in Mongkok, the world's most densely-populated area, shivered and looted down on looters and police.

In one dramatic incident, a detective with pistol drawn held hundreds of looters at bay. Police twice opened fire with tear gas to

disperse rioters. After midnight they saturated Mongkok with hundreds of men armed with clubs, many of them in plain clothes. The young gangs put up no resistance and fled.

On one street the windows of every private car were smashed. Only taxis were spared.

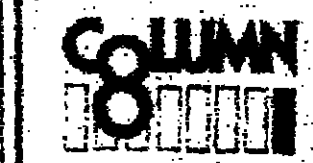
Later Mr. Browne reported from the Mongkok area of Kowloon that gangs of youths were building street barricades out of motor cycles, rubbish bins and burning tyres. When police moved in they abandoned the barricades and built new ones further up the street.

The looters seemed to be mainly in their late teens. Many were well dressed and accompanied by girl friends.

Police cordoned off the area, barring anyone from entering, even shopkeepers who pleaded in vain to be allowed to see what had happened to their property. But the police made no move to disperse the looters within their cordons.

As fast-dwellers hurled missiles into the street the police trained guns at open windows and through loud-hailers told people to close their windows.

Police reinforcements in black open trucks covered with metal mesh were pelted with tin cans, sticks and stones.



Triple murderer escapes execution

RALEIGH, North Carolina (R)—Triple murderer James Hutchins, 33, escaped execution Friday when the State Supreme Court issued a stay less than an hour before he was scheduled to die by injection. The state court action came shortly after the U.S. Supreme Court said it had lifted another stay issued by a federal appeals court judge Friday morning.

Because of the North Carolina court action, a new execution date for Mr. Hutchins cannot be set until a hearing is held. Mr. Hutchins was convicted in September 1979 of killing two local Sheriff's deputies and a state highway trooper. He got the death penalty for the Sheriff's deaths and life imprisonment for killing the patrolman.

Joe Frazier arrested for carrying gun

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP, New Jersey (R)—Joe Frazier, who downed Muhammad Ali during a world boxing heavyweight title fight, met his match when a policeman arrested him for carrying an unlicensed gun. Frazier, who was carrying a .357 Magnum, said he had the gun because he sometimes carried large sums of money. He was arrested on a highway at Washington Township.

New Jersey police said he carried a licence valid only for the state of Pennsylvania and would appear in court next week facing a possible small fine. Since losing the World Heavyweight Championship for the second time in 1975, Frazier has worked as a boxing promoter and as an entertainer. The arrest came on his 40th birthday.

2 heroin makers die in explosion

ANKARA (R)—Two men illegally making heroin in a house in a remote area of southeastern Turkey died this week when their equipment blew up, starting a fire that destroyed millions of dollars worth of the drug. Turkish security police said Friday. Three other men were injured in the blast four days ago and subsequently seized along with 4.5 kilos of heroin remaining after the fire. The police announced in the southeastern city of Diyarbakir. They said 40 kilos — with a street value in the United States or Europe of up to \$10 million — was destroyed in the fire. The explosion occurred because the men had kept the windows of the house shut while they were working in their makeshift laboratory.

Opium growing for heroin has virtually been wiped out in Turkey but the country remains an important link in the smuggling chain from the "Golden Crescent" of Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan to the west.

BBC suspends journalists

LONDON (R)—The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) said Friday it sent home 40 of its journalists without pay for walking out of a television news programme. The group, all members of the National Union of Journalists, walked out of the 12.30 bulletin to attend a union meeting and were suspended without pay on their return. The programme continued with management helping to produce it. The walkout, over a claim for extra pay to operate new technology, follows a similar incident Thursday which backed out the BBC's nine o'clock evening news and a warning by the BBC that it would take action against any further disruption.

2 Soviet trade officials executed

MOSCOW (R)—Two senior Soviet foreign trade officials have been executed for corruption after being convicted of taking large bribes, the Official News Agency TASS reported Friday. Yuri Smelyakov, 55, who was chairman of the Tekhnopromexport Organisation, and V.A. Pavlov, head of its import office, were sent to the firing squad after the Soviet Supreme Court turned down appeals for clemency. TASS said, The executions were the latest evidence of a tough drive against high-level graft since Yuri Andropov became Soviet leader 14 months ago. Tekhnopromexport is a state concern which designs and helps construct thermal power stations in East European and Third World countries.